



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Materials

for

**January 30-31, 2018
Board Meeting**

Florence, Oregon



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Agenda

January 30-31

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Best Western Pier Point Inn

Banquet Room

85625 US Hwy 101

Florence, OR 97439

Directions: <https://goo.gl/maps/vM3Xi7uD8dQ2>

Business Meeting – 8:00 a.m.

For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. The board may also elect to take an item out of order in certain circumstances. During the public comment periods (Agenda Items D, J, K and N), 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.*** Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after January 23, 2018 will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

A. Board Member Comments (8:10 a.m.)

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 (8:50 a.m.)

The minutes of the October 24-25, 2017 meeting in Lebanon will be presented for approval. *Action item.*

C. Board Subcommittee Updates (8:55 a.m.)

Representatives from the Executive, Focused Investments, Monitoring, and Open Solicitation subcommittees will provide updates on subcommittee topics to the full board. *Information item.*

D. Public Comment (9:15 a.m.)

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

E. Tide Gate Restoration and Monitoring Literature Review and Recommendations Report (9:30 a.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho, and Oregon State University Assistant Professor Jon Souder will brief the board about a literature review of tide gate replacement and removal projects, outlining lessons learned from the projects and recommendations to address data gaps and future next steps for monitoring of tide gate restoration projects. *Information item.*

F. Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Equipment-Funding Request (10:30 a.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis will request the board provide funding for monitoring equipment that is provided for use by local groups as part of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's volunteer water quality monitoring program. *Action item.*

G. Coordinated Streamside Management-Monitoring Funding Request (10:45 a.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis will request the board provide funding associated with a multi-agency effort to monitor the results of on-the-ground actions in the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Strategic Implementation Areas. *Action item.*

H. Organizational Shared Space-Grant Update (11:15 a.m.)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff and Greenbelt Land Trust's Executive Director Michael Pope and Associate Director Jessica McDonald will update the board on an OWEB Organizational Collaboration grant that is supporting the sharing of office space by Corvallis-area conservation organizations. *Information item.*

I. Governor's Priorities-Post-Fire Restoration (11:45 a.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will request the board provide Governor's Priority funding for post-fire restoration. *Action item.*

J. OWEB Strategic Plan Update (1:00 p.m.)

NOTE: Public Comment at 1:15 p.m.

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will join Principal Consultant Steve Patty and Associate Consultant Jessamyn Luiz with Dialogues in Action to review draft strategies that are being developed as a part of the strategic planning process. *Information item.*

Tour – 3:15 p.m.

The OWEB Board and staff will participate in a field tour of a multi-phased landscape floodplain restoration project along Fivemile and Bell Creeks. The tour will be leaving from the Best Western Pier Point Inn. Anyone is welcome to join the tour, but please be prepared to provide your own transportation and be prepared for inclement weather.

Informal Reception – 5:45 p.m. - 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:

Best Western Pier Point Inn

Banquet Room

85625 US Hwy 101

Florence, OR 97439

Wednesday, January 31, 2017**Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.**

For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. The board may also elect to take an item out of order in certain circumstances. During the public comment periods (Agenda Items D, J, K and N), 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.*** Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after January 23 2018 will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

K. Public Comment (8:00 a.m.)

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

L. Executive Director's Update (8:15 a.m.)

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

M. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Administrative Rules (9:55 a.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will update the board on the FIP rulemaking process and present the final draft rules for board consideration and approval. Public comment associated with this item may be heard as part of general public comment. However, because this item has already been the subject of a formal public hearing and a comment period, further public testimony may not be taken except upon changes made to the item since the original public comment period, or upon the direct request of the board members in order to obtain additional information. *Action item.*

N. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (10:55 a.m.)

NOTE: Public Comment at approximately 11:10 a.m.

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will update the board on the latest developments of the Oregon Agriculture Heritage Program, and request the board approve members of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. *Action item.*

O. Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed Final Report (12:15 p.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Program Manager Jim Ruzycki, and Oregon State University Professor John Selker will present to the board a final summary report about this Intensively Monitored Watershed, summarizing ten years of work by numerous agencies, organizations and individuals conducting restoration, research, and monitoring activities in the upper Middle Fork John Day River. *Information item.*

Meeting Rules and Procedures

Meeting Procedures

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

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

Oregon's Public Meetings Law requires disclosure that board members may meet for meals on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Voting Rules

The OWEB Board has 18 members. Of these, 11 are voting members and seven 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, January 30 at 9:15 a.m.* and *Wednesday, January 31 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.* Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after January 23, 2018 will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

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 or send an e-mail to darika.barnes@oregon.gov. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise Darika Barnes 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*
Vacant, *Environmental Quality Commission*
Bob Webber, *Fish and Wildlife Commission member*
Vacant, *Board of Forestry*
Meg Reeves, *Water Resources Commission*
Jason Robison, *Public (tribal)*
Gary Marshall, *Public*
Will Neuhauser, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Randy Labbe, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Jan Lee, *Public*
Liza Jane McAlister, *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*
Paul Henson, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Contact Information

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Salem, Oregon 97301-1290
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www.oregon.gov/OWEB

OWEB Executive Director – Meta Loftsgaarden
meta.loftsgaarden@oregon.gov

OWEB Assistant to Executive Director and Board – Darika Barnes
darika.barnes@oregon.gov
503-986-0181

2018 Board Meeting Schedule

January 30-31, in Florence
April 24-25, in Frenchglen
June 26-27, Stevenson, WA and Cascade Locks
October 16-17, Brookings/Gold Beach

2019 Board Meeting Schedule

January 15-16, TBD
April 16-17, in Salem
July 16-17, in Klamath Falls
October 15-16, TBD

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

www.oregon.gov/OWEB.



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!**

OWEB 2017-19 Spending Plan for the January 2018 Board Meeting

| | OWEB SPENDING PLAN | July 2017 Spending Plan | TOTAL Board Awards To- Date | Remaining Spending Plan as of Oct 2017 awards | Jan 2018 Proposed Board Awards | Remaining Spending Plan as of Jan 2018 |
|----|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 1 | Open Solicitation: | | | | | |
| 2 | Restoration | 28.550 | 8.255 | 20.295 | | 20.295 |
| 3 | Technical Assistance | | | | | |
| 4 | Restoration TA | 3.600 | 0.809 | 2.791 | | 2.791 |
| 6 | CREP TA | 1.125 | 1.125 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 7 | Stakeholder Engagement | 0.700 | 0.000 | 0.700 | | 0.700 |
| 8 | Monitoring grants | 2.500 | 0.000 | 2.500 | | 2.500 |
| 9 | Land and Water Acquisition | | | | | 0.000 |
| 10 | Acquisition Projects | 6.200 | 0.000 | 6.200 | | 6.200 |
| 11 | Acquisition Technical Assistance | 0.300 | 0.000 | 0.300 | | 0.300 |
| 12 | Weed Grants | 3.000 | 3.000 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 13 | Small Grants | 3.300 | 3.300 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 14 | Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring | 1.587 | 0.000 | 1.587 | 0.340 | 1.247 |
| 15 | TOTAL | 50.862 | 16.489 | 34.373 | 0.340 | 34.033 |
| 16 | % of assumed Total Budget | 59.50% | | | | |
| 17 | Focused Investments: | | | | | |
| 18 | Deschutes | 4.000 | 4.000 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 19 | Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat | 2.445 | 2.445 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 20 | Harney Basin Wetlands | 1.970 | 1.970 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 21 | Sage Grouse | 2.355 | 2.355 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 22 | Ashland Forest All-Lands | 2.340 | 2.340 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 23 | Upper Grande Ronde | 2.417 | 2.417 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 24 | Development FIPs | 1.150 | 0.572 | 0.578 | | 0.578 |
| 25 | FI Effectiveness Monitoring | 0.750 | 0.000 | 0.750 | | 0.750 |
| 26 | TOTAL | 17.427 | 16.099 | 1.328 | 0.000 | 1.328 |
| 27 | % of assumed Total Budget | 20.39% | | | | |
| 28 | Operating Capacity: | | | | | |
| 29 | Capacity grants (WC/SWCD) | 13.547 | 13.547 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 30 | Statewide org partnership support | 0.450 | 0.450 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 31 | Organizational Collaborative Grants | 0.400 | 0.327 | 0.073 | | 0.073 |
| 32 | TOTAL | 14.397 | 14.324 | 0.073 | 0.000 | 0.073 |
| 33 | % of assumed Total Budget | 16.84% | | | | |
| 34 | Other: | | | | | |
| 35 | CREP | 0.600 | 0.600 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 36 | Governor's Priorities | 1.000 | 0.850 | 0.150 | 0.025 | 0.125 |
| 37 | Strategic Implementation Areas | 1.200 | 1.200 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 38 | TOTAL | 2.800 | 2.650 | 0.150 | 0.025 | 0.125 |
| 39 | % of assumed Total Budget | 3.28% | | | | |
| 40 | TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan | 85.486 | 49.562 | 35.924 | 0.365 | 35.559 |
| 41 | OTHER DISTRIBUTED FUNDS IN ADDITION TO SPENDING PLAN DISTRIBUTION | | | | | |
| 42 | Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - PCSRF | 10.450 | 10.450 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 43 | Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership | 0.309 | 0.309 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 44 | Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF | 0.500 | 0.500 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 45 | PSMFC-IMW | 0.438 | 0.438 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 46 | PSMFC-Coho Habitat Tools | 0.166 | 0.166 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 47 | Natural Resources Conservation Svc-CREP TA | 0.250 | 0.250 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 48 | TOTAL | 12.113 | 12.113 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 49 | TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Distributed Funds | 97.599 | 61.675 | 35.924 | 0.365 | 35.559 |

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

**Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
October 24, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Best Western Premier Boulder Falls Conference Center, Room A
505 Mullins Drive
Lebanon, Oregon**

MINUTES (Audio time stamps on this day reference recording at <https://youtu.be/uEVaxXOtSel>).
Some agenda items are discussed out of order.

OWEB Members Present

Alvarado, Ron
Brandt, Stephen
Furfey, Rosemary
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Marshall, Gary
Masterson, Laura
Neuhauser, Will
Roberts, John
Robison, Jason
Stangl, Kathy
Thorndike, Dan
Webber, Bob
Wenner, Karl

VACANT:

Environmental Quality Commission
Board of Forestry

OWEB Staff Present

Barnes, Darika
Chandler, Heather
Ciannella, Greg
Curry, Cyrus
Davis, Renee
Duzik, Katie
Greer, Sue
Grenbemer, Mark
Hartstein, Eric
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Redon, Liz
Satein, Hannah
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric
Wills, Paula

Others Present

Andersen, Eric
Beamer, Kelley
Begley, Clinton
Berge, Greg
Dyrdahl, Sarah
Hans, Karen
Hendrixson, Heather
Hilgart, Megan
Horner, Janice
McCoun, Rebecca
McMullin, Michelle
Morford, Shawn
Pedersen, Tyler
Scott, Nell
Siebert, Paul
Watson, Cristina
Weybright, Jared

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 a.m. by Co-Chair Will Neuhauser.

A. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:00:30)

Board members provided updates on issues and activities related to their respective geographic regions and/or from the state and federal natural resource agencies they represent.

B. Review and Approval of Minutes (Audio = 0:49:00)

Minutes of the July 24-26, 2017 board meeting in Boardman were presented to the board for approval.

Dan Thorndike moved the board approve the minutes from the July 24-26, 2017 meeting in Boardman. The motion was seconded by Karl Wenner. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 0:49:35)

C. Board Subcommittee Updates (Audio = 0:49:55)

Representatives from the Executive, Focused Investments, Monitoring, and Open Solicitation subcommittees provided updates to the full board on current subcommittee topics and activities.

D. Public Comment (Audio = 01:04:55)

The board was addressed by Shawn Morford from the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils and Kelley Beamer from the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts to express appreciation to the board for their continued support of the Oregon Conservation Partnership's work, to present some of the outcomes they have experienced, and to promote the events and concepts they are planning for the new biennium.

E. Spring 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering (Audio: 01:14:30)

The board considered grant applications submitted for the Spring 2017 Open Solicitation grant offering for restoration and technical assistance grants. Grant Program Manager Eric Williams provided background information on the grant offering and explained how project evaluation criteria (under five main categories: proposal clarity, technical soundness, watershed context, capacity of applicant, and cost effectiveness) factor into the regional review team process for recommending projects. OWEB's regional program representatives provided presentations on projects within their geographic areas which highlighted one of the evaluation criteria.

Region 1: Katie Duzik, Regional Program Representative for the North Coast, presented projects from Region 1 with a focus on proposal clarity. (Audio = 1:21:50)

Region 6: Sue Greer, Regional Program Representative for the Mid-Columbia Basin, presented projects from Region 6 with a focus on technical soundness. (Audio = 1:34:00)

Region 5: In the absence of Karen Leiendecker, Regional Program Representative for Eastern Oregon, Grant Program Manager Eric Williams presented projects from Region 5 with a focus on cost effectiveness. (Audio = 1:42:30)

Region 2: Mark Grenbemer, Regional Program Representative for Southwest Oregon, presented projects from Region 2 with a focus on watershed context. (Audio = 1:52:10)

Region 4: Greg Ciannella, Regional Program Representative for Central Oregon, presented Region 4 projects with a focus on capacity of applicant. (Audio = 2:04:15)

Region 3: Liz Redon, Regional Program Representative for the Willamette Basin, presented projects from Region 3 with a focus on how regional review teams arrive at a ranked list of projects to propose to the board. (Audio = 2:15:10)

PUBLIC COMMENT (Audio = 2:39:30)

Nell Scott addressed the board on behalf of Trout Unlimited to thank the board for their support for past projects, and to support r projects currently up for approval, all of which she believes are jumping-off points for larger projects.

There was board discussion and deliberation of projects proposed for funding, and consideration of projects that were not recommended for funding. (Audio = 2:46:40)

Will Neuhauser moved the board approve the staff funding recommendations as described in Attachment C to the Spring 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering staff report. The motion was seconded by Dan Thorndike. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:49:20)

P. Other Business (Audio = 2:50:00)

1. Time Extension for Mountcrest Acquisition Project (Audio = 2:50:45)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams updated the board on due diligence for the Mountcrest Working Forest Conservation Easement Project and requested the board approve a time extension to allow the grantee to close the transaction.

Jason Robison moved the board extend the deadline for closing the Mountcrest Working Forest Conservation Easement Project, #216-9903-12466, to May 31, 2018. The motion was seconded by Bob Webber. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:54:30)

2. Organization Collaboration Grant Awards (Audio = 2:55:00)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff briefed the board on the Organizational Collaboration grant program that supports new or expanded collaborations between organizations. The board considered Organizational Collaboration grant awards recommended by staff.

Will Neuhauser moved the board award Organization Collaboration grants as described in Attachment A to the Organization Collaboration Grant Awards staff report. The motion was seconded by John Roberts. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:02:30)

M. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Program Rulemaking Update (Audio = 3:03:05)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein updated the board on the FIP rulemaking process.

K. FIP Gathering (Audio = 3:07:20)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff requested the board amend an existing grant with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation to award funds to host a gathering in March 2018 for FIP Implementation and Capacity Building grantees.

There was discussion by the board, including the idea of board participation at a gathering.

Randy Labbe moved the board award up to \$11,500 from the Capacity Building FIPs spending plan line item to grant number 216-8390-12951 for the Bonneville Environmental Foundation to implement a FIP Gathering. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:15:25)

G. Strategic Plan (Audio = 3:17:40)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden updated the board on the status of the OWEB Strategic Plan that is currently under development. She presented the most recent editions of the working documents “Who We Are” and “Strategic Priorities for Impact” for the board’s review and explained the material changes. The board offered some additional modifications and ideas. Loftsgaarden asked for other comments to come in by e-mail and said the topic would be revisited in more detail at the January board meeting.

F. Winter Lake Restoration Project Funding Request (Audio = 3:50:50)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams, Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy, and Region 2 Program Representative Mark Grenbemer were joined by Megan Hilgart from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and Tim Walters from Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife to brief the board on the status of the Winter Lake restoration project. They requested the board award \$275,000.00 additional funding for the project.

There were questions from the board and the topic was discussed further.

Bob Webber moved the board award \$275,000 from the Open Solicitation: Restoration spending plan line item and authorize the Executive Director to enter into appropriate agreements to complete the restoration phase of the Winter Lake Restoration project, with an effective date of April 28, 2015. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. There was discussion by the board. The motion passed with seven votes. Karl Wenner and Gary Marshall voted against the motion. (Audio = 4:42:00)

H. Executive Director's Update (Audio = 4:48:30)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden updated the board on agency business and late-breaking issues.

1. Online Applications (Audio = 4:51:20)

Region 3 Program Representative Liz Redon and Software Engineer Cyrus Curry demonstrated the improvements in efficiency and effectiveness of OWEB's new online application system, highlighting benefits to both applicants and OWEB staff.

2. Lower Columbia River Watershed Council Update

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff and Program Manager Katie Duzik informed the board on the progress of the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council toward meeting OWEB's funding requirements associated with the 2017-19 Council Capacity grant award.

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 3:00 p.m. by Co-Chair Randy Labbe. (Audio = 5:14:50)

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
October 25, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Best Western Premier Boulder Falls Conference Center, Room A
505 Mullins Drive
Lebanon, Oregon

MINUTES (Audio time stamps on this day reference recording at https://youtu.be/BVpC4l_QkE).
Some agenda items are discussed out of order.

OWEB Members Present

Alvarado, Ron
Brandt, Stephen
Furfey, Rosemary
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Marshall, Gary
Masterson, Laura
Neuhauser, Will
Roberts, John
Robison, Jason
Stangl, Kathy
Thorndike, Dan
Webber, Bob
Wenner, Karl

OWEB Staff Present

Barnes, Darika
Ciannella, Greg
Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Duzik, Katie
Fetcho, Ken
Hartstein, Eric
Hatch, Audrey
Loftsgaarden, Meta
McAdams, Nellie
Redon, Liz
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

Others Present

Bell, Dan
Brick, Jim
Hanson, Lisa
Hendrixson, Heather
Houston, Ryan
Larson, Krista
Morford, Shawn
Reeve, Todd
Scott, Nell
Stanley, Brooke
Taylor, Bruce
Warren, Robert
Welle, Pat

VACANT:

Environmental Quality Commission
Board of Forestry

The meeting was called to reconvene at 8:00 a.m. by Co-Chair Will Neuhauser.

H. Public Comment (Audio = 0:00:10)

There was no comment from the public.

I. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) - Capacity Building Grant Awards (0:03:15)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff updated the board on the FIP Capacity Building Program and the 2017-2019 Grant Solicitation Offering. Shaff reviewed the evaluation criteria and explained the process for selecting partnerships to recommend for funding. On behalf of staff, Shaff requested the board award Capacity Building FIP grants as described in Attachment B, delegate to the Director up to \$60,000 to be allocated from the Capacity Building FIP spending plan item to be used for developing financial plans for the recommended applications described in Attachment B, and approve an additional Capacity Building FIP grant offering in 2018.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Audio = 0:14:00)

- Nell Scott addressed the board on behalf of Trout Unlimited and Heather Hendrixson on behalf of The Nature Conservancy to provide information about the work being accomplished in the Klamath Basin by their respective organizations.
- Brooke Stanley addressed the board on behalf of North Coast Watershed Association and the Lower Columbia Chum Recovery Partnership to request the board consider funding for project application #218-8300-15760.
- Bruce Taylor addressed the board to discuss the importance of oak prairie habitat conservation in the northwest and to express support for the partnerships requesting funding for this type of conservation.

There was board discussion and deliberation about proposed projects. (Audio = 0:42:00)

Will Neuhauser moved the board approve an additional Capacity Building FIP grant offering in 2018. The motion was seconded by Dan Thorndike. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:10:42)

Will Neuhauser moved the board approve the staff funding recommendations as described in Attachment B to the Capacity Building FIP Grant Awards staff report. The motion was seconded by John Roberts. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:12:10)

Bob Webber moved the board approve funding for Project #218-8300-15760 in Attachment B to the Capacity Building FIP Grant Awards staff report. The motion was seconded by Karl Wenner. There was discussion by the board. The motion failed with three affirmative votes. (Audio = 1:13:19)

Dan Thorndike moved the board delegate to the Executive Director up to \$60,000 to be allocated from the Capacity Building FIP spending plan item to be used for developing financial plans for the recommended applications described in Attachment B. The motion was seconded by Gary Marshall. There was discussion by the board for clarification. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:21:17)

L. Strategic Implementation Areas & Coordinated Streamside Management (Audio = 1:22:45)

OWEB Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Deputy Director Lisa Hanson presented updates to ODA's Strategic Implementation Areas and the Coordinated Streamside Management Partnership (formerly the Clean Water Partnership).

N. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (Audio = 2:07:10)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Project Manager Nellie McAdams updated the board on the progress of the Oregon Agriculture Heritage Program and commission member selection, and requested approval to initiate rulemaking.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

There was discussion by the board.

Will Neuhauser moved the board authorize rulemaking for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. The motion was seconded by Laura Masterson. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:43:48)

O. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Update – Implementation (Audio = 2:44:25)

Deputy Director Renee Davis, Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) Model Watershed Program Director Robert Warren, and Upper Deschutes Watershed Council Executive Director Ryan Houston reported to the board on the application of a progress monitoring framework to each of the six Implementation FIPs, outlined products of BEF’s work with the FIPs and discussed next steps associated with FIP monitoring.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m. by Co-Chair Will Neuhauser. (Audio = 3:54:45)

January 30-31, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting Focused Investment Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee Members

Gary Marshall, Chair, Ron Alvarado, Alan Henning, Jason Robison

Background

The Focused Investment Subcommittee met on December 8th to discuss Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) capacity building and implementation program developments.

Summary of Focused Investment Subcommittee Work this Quarter

1. Development FIP Solicitation Timeline

The subcommittee discussed the timeline for soliciting Development FIP grants with funds remaining in this spending plan line item. More details on the solicitation are provided in the Director's Update staff report (Agenda Item L).

2. Follow-up from October Capacity Building FIP board awards

The subcommittee discussed follow-up communications between staff and the applicants who were not awarded FIP Capacity Building funds in October. These communications highlighted that it was important for OWEB to distinguish between a Technical Assistance grant and a Development FIP grant, and the need to build in additional time before the next solicitation to make sure this is understood by prospective applicants. Some partnerships can move forward with developing an action plan without a FIP grant; others who have a desire to be more collaborative may want to consider a Development FIP application.

3. FIP Gathering

The subcommittee discussed a planned gathering of participants in capacity building and implementation FIPs scheduled for March 13-14 in Corbett. The purpose of the Gathering is to promote peer learning about all aspects of FIP partnership work.

4. FIP Rulemaking

Proposed FIP rules were out for public comment during the month of December, and a final draft is proposed for board action at this meeting (see Agenda Item M).

To Be Presented at the January 2018 Board Meeting by:

Gary Marshall, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
eric.williams@oregon.gov or 503-986-0047.

January 30-31, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting Monitoring Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee Members

Chair Rosemary Furfey, Stephen Brandt, Alan Henning, Jason Robison

Background

The Monitoring Subcommittee is discussing both open solicitation programmatic effectiveness monitoring (EM) and Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) monitoring. They also are overseeing the process to develop improved guidance for applicants submitting monitoring grant applications.

Summary of Monitoring Subcommittee Work this Quarter

The subcommittee met on October 3 and December 5, 2017, and discussed the following:

- 1) FIP monitoring framework with Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) – In October, the subcommittee received a briefing in advance of the board meeting presentation. In December, staff updated the subcommittee about scheduled meetings with each of the six FIPs to obtain additional feedback on the results chain process, specifically on monitoring/reporting gaps identified.
- 2) Open Solicitation monitoring guidance – The subcommittee discussed feedback to date from OWEB staff and reviewers about improvements to OWEB’s monitoring application guidance and refinements to OWEB’s monitoring grant-making. Staff noted that a monitoring grantee survey is also underway.
- 3) Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring / ‘Telling the Restoration Story’ – Staff reviewed with the subcommittee potential locations and restoration actions for describing the ecological effects of restoration over different time horizons. Next steps will focus on outreach to partners in ‘high potential’ areas to discuss opportunities.
- 4) Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring / In-progress projects – Staff briefed the subcommittee about upcoming presentations at the January board meeting regarding findings from the 10-year Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed and the tide gate removal/restoration literature review, and discussed the upcoming 10-year livestock exclusion monitoring presentation in April.
- 5) January 2018 funding requests – In December, staff briefed the subcommittee about two funding requests: 1) Funding for Strategic Implementation Area monitoring, in coordination with the Oregon Departments of Agriculture, Environmental Quality (DEQ), and Fish and Wildlife and local partners; and 2) Funding for replacement of volunteer water quality monitoring equipment in coordination with DEQ. Subcommittee members discussed both requests and concluded these are consistent with OWEB’s mission and programs.

To Be Presented at the January 2018 Board Meeting by:

Rosemary Furfey, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact

Renee Davis, Deputy Director

renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203

January 30-31, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting Open Solicitation Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee Members

Bob Webber, Chair, Stephen Brandt, Rosemary Furfey, Kathy Stangl

Background

Having completed work on the small grant program evaluation and stakeholder application revisions, the Open Solicitation Subcommittee continued reviewing the funding line process.

Summary of Open Solicitation Subcommittee Work this Quarter

Post-fire Assistance

The subcommittee previewed the post-fire technical assistance item on the January board agenda.

Funding Line Process

The subcommittee previously expressed that, regardless of method, transparency and predictability are the most important factors in deciding staff and board roles in addressing recommended projects that fall below the staff-recommended funding line. The subcommittee discussed whether to create a spending plan line item designated as a funding line contingency for such projects. There was concern that this approach would set up a potentially untapped spending plan item or that it would create an incentive for applicants to lobby the board for projects below the line.

The subcommittee would like to initiate board discussion on this topic with an April agenda item.

To Be Presented at the October 2017 Board Meeting by:

Bob Webber, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
eric.williams@oregon.gov or 503-986-0047



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item E – Tide Gate Restoration and Monitoring Literature Review
January 30-31, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff and partners from Oregon State University (OSU) will present the results of a literature review of existing materials from the Pacific Northwest (PNW) that describes the effects of tide gate restoration projects. This presentation will summarize the key findings and lessons learned from this review and discuss recommendations that emerged from this effort.

II. Background

The board's Monitoring Subcommittee and staff have identified tide gate restoration investments as a priority area to investigate via programmatic effectiveness monitoring. Tide gate restoration encompasses projects that remove tide gates and projects that replace tide gates with fish-friendly designs. Tide gate restoration projects can be costly and complex to design and implement. In addition, natural resource experts have raised concerns about the aging tide gate infrastructure in the state. Oregon has seen an increasing number of failing tide gates and a growing need for restoration projects that involve tide gates.

In July of 2016, the board awarded up to \$40,000 to OSU for this literature review and compilation effort. The review compiles information from both tide gate restoration projects (including OWEB-funded projects) and effectiveness monitoring.

III. Ecological Effects of Tide Gate Restoration

The team, including OSU faculty and OWEB staff, examined the outcomes of tide gate restoration actions in three ways:

- A literature review of existing materials from the PNW that describe effects of tide gate restoration projects;
- A summary of the tide gate restoration and effectiveness monitoring projects OWEB has funded, and compiled findings and lessons learned from these projects; and

- A summary of the tide gate restoration and effectiveness monitoring of non-OWEB funded projects, and compiled findings and lessons learned from these projects.

At the time of writing this staff report, OSU is finalizing the report (including the executive summary) that compiles these findings and highlights important information and issues to be considered during OWEB's grant-making process. The document also provides recommendations for monitoring the effects of tide gate restoration projects in the future.

IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachments

- A. Ecological Effects of Tide Gate Restoration Final Report – Executive Summary (to be provided at the January board meeting)

Executive Summary

This document reports on findings, conclusions and recommendations derived from scientific literature and knowledge regarding the effectiveness of tide gate removal or upgrade in improving conditions for Oregon's native migratory fish species, particularly salmonids, and other plant and animal species that utilize estuarine ecosystems. The project was commissioned by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to foster better understanding of the effectiveness of their past investments in estuary habitat restoration involving tide gates, and to aid in targeting future investments. This will be especially important because many less-complicated projects (e.g. those on public land, smaller, single-action projects, those with consensus on land use) have already been completed, and restoration efforts are becoming increasingly complex and resource intensive. Additionally, restoration actions and benefits can vary considerably according to local conditions. Thus, key questions going forward involve project prioritization and design to achieve maximum return on investments in an environment where demand for projects exceeds available resources. Users of this information may include applicants submitting tide gate and estuary restoration proposals to OWEB, reviewers of these proposals, other OWEB staff, and the OWEB Board of Directors.

The project is premised on the assumption that the ecological effects of existing tide gates are understood well enough to make estuary restoration involving removal or upgrades of aging tide gates generally worthwhile in terms of improved fish passage and estuarine habitat conditions. However, the data on tide gate restoration (removal or upgrade) was not cohesively synthesized. To address this information gap we focused our work around the following four tasks.

Task 1: A review of literature pertaining to tide gate removals and upgrades;

Task 2: Summary and review of completed, primarily OWEB-funded tide gate removal and/or upgrade projects and associated effectiveness monitoring;

Task 3: Summary and review of completed tide gate removal and/or upgrade projects and associated effectiveness monitoring not funded primarily by OWEB; and

Task 4: Summary and synthesis, including findings and recommendations.

We used a multi-faceted approach to knowledge synthesis, including review of relevant scientific literature, OWEB and non-OWEB agency reports on tide gate projects, and inquiries to state and federal agency staff working on estuary restoration in the Pacific Northwest region. The work was completed by a team based at Oregon State University. The report is organized into seven chapters, described below, with significant findings and recommendations at the conclusion of this Executive Summary.

Chapter 1, *Introduction*, provides an overview of tide gates and tide gate hydraulics to help understand their effects. Various types of tide gates are described, including modifications intended to reduce adverse effects on fish passage and water quality. Because tide gate operations are controlled by tidal cycles, we are using an example from the upgraded Willanch Creek tide gates in the Coos Bay estuary to explain how tidal hydraulics govern the timing of gate openings and closing, the degree of opening, and resulting water velocities. The chapter concludes with a discussion of recent OWEB investments in tide

gate removals and upgrades, and the desire to have a review of literature and knowledge to lay the foundation for future programs. Throughout our investigations, we were asked to identify data gaps and areas for future study, as well as major uncertainties or topics of concern that should be considered in grant application reviews for tide gate removal and upgrade projects.

Chapter 2, *Methods*, describes the process we used to conduct the literature search and our examination of completed restoration projects and monitoring. This review focused on four questions:

1. Does tide gate upgrade affect salmonid abundance, distribution, growth, survival or habitat availability in the Pacific Northwest (PNW)?
2. Does tide gate removal affect salmonid abundance, distribution, growth, survival or habitat availability in the PNW?
3. Does tide gate upgrade affect water temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen and tidal exchange in the PNW?
4. Does tide gate removal affect water temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen and tidal exchange in the PNW?

To conduct our search for relevant literature we utilized systematic review methods (which enhance objectivity and transparency) in conjunction with traditional literature searches. Systematic searches were conducted using Google Scholar and Web of Science. About 350 search results from twelve individual searches were assessed in this manner, producing an initial list of approximately 65 pieces of provisionally included literature, with an additional 15 found through other means. These 80 articles were evaluated and categorized in an Excel spreadsheet, with 32 ultimately considered pertinent for the literature review (although others were used for the ecological context discussion).

OWEB provided project completion and post-implementation reports for restoration and monitoring projects for which they were the primary funder (Task 2). Identifying and accurately describing primarily non-OWEB tide gate projects (Task 3) was not straightforward, due the complex, multi-phase nature of estuary restoration; diversity in participants, funders and project goals; and associated inconsistencies and gaps in project naming, reporting, and monitoring. We identified some primarily non-OWEB projects during systematic searching, and additional projects using variants of project and location names, publication lists, keyword searches within synthesis documents, bibliographies, and queries to estuary restoration entities. We faced similar issues in identifying primarily non-OWEB monitoring efforts. Monitoring was sometimes linked with a particular tide gate removal or upgrade, but was usually focused on watershed-level restoration with multiple components. This limited our ability to distinguish results associated with tide gates from broader watershed-level findings. We included projects from British Columbia, Canada to Humboldt Bay in northern California. Some were well documented while others were not, so the level of detail provided for each project varies.

Our searches to identify and review primarily non-OWEB tide gate projects were extensive but not exhaustive. A “deeper dive” into projects already identified would likely reveal additional information.

Chapter 3, *Ecological Context of Tide Gates in Estuaries*, examines the effects of existing tide gates, salmon life history diversity, and the importance of coastal marsh habitats for juvenile salmonids. We began with the assumption that ecological effects of tide gates were well understood and accepted. During our investigation we found additional evidence of effects resulting from existing tide gates. We also found

new information on early migrating estuary-rearing coho salmon life histories contributing to the spawning population and highlighting the importance of estuarine habitats to a broader range of juvenile salmonids than previously recognized. We include this information as context for our discussion of tide gate removals and upgrades, and as evidence for the value of such projects.

Chapter 4, *Effects of Tide Gate Upgrades and Removal on Aquatic Organisms and Estuarine Environments*, is a review of findings on this subject reported in the scientific literature (i.e., peer-reviewed journal articles and graduate student theses) and various project reports identified via literature searching. Our review was focused on the Pacific Northwest but included studies from other regions. Documentation and availability of monitoring data—even in cases where we found evidence that monitoring was done—varied significantly from project to project, and by region. Where monitoring data were available, interpretation and synthesis were often insufficient to allow for robust conclusions. Summaries and findings are drawn from peer-reviewed literature and M.S. theses where available, but are also informed by a significant amount of information from non-peer reviewed agency reports and monitoring data. Very few studies only examined the effects of tide gate upgrades or removal independently of other restoration actions. Thus, for most studies we could not distinguish the confounding effects of different actions. As a result, we were not able to answer the guiding questions separately. Instead, we identified two main themes related to tide gate upgrades and removals- 1) effects on salmonids and other aquatic organisms and, 2) effects on water quality- that we used to organize our synthesis of 32 publications. Only a few of these publications were directly relevant to addressing the four guiding questions. The rest provided valuable information to better understand the general context of how and why tide gate upgrade and removal projects benefit salmonids and other aquatic organisms as well as their estuarine habitats. Individual summaries of these publications are included in Appendix A.

Chapter 5, *Regional Project Summaries*, complements the literature review by showing the extent and diversity of estuarine restoration projects in Oregon, Washington, and northern California, extracting information from the detailed project descriptions found in Appendix B (primarily OWEB-funded) and Appendix C (primarily non-OWEB funded). Forty-seven restoration projects in five different regions are highlighted, including 14 in Oregon where OWEB was the primary funder (and another eight primarily funded by others). These projects highlight the diversity of tide gate related estuarine restoration, ranging from single tributary stream tide gates to complex projects involving multiple tide gates, levee setbacks, habitat restoration, and infrastructure improvement. Chapter 5 also discusses monitoring efforts that evaluate these projects. This monitoring includes implementation (whether the project was implemented according to designs), effectiveness (whether the project was likely to meet its goals), and validation (how do these projects fit into the larger status and trend, and salmon life cycles). Thirteen OWEB-funded monitoring projects are discussed, along with an additional 21 funded by others.

Chapter 6, *Thinking Systematically about Tide Gates*, synthesizes the work described in Chapters 3, 4, and 5 into a framework that can be used for program development. We identify four types of project goals (developing estuarine rearing habitat, improving fish passage, providing flood control, and protecting infrastructure) that typically guide tide gate related restoration projects. We also identify three general tide gate geographies (river/stream mouths, tributary mouths, and field drains) and discuss their features as they relate to restoration opportunities. Through our analysis of projects in the previous chapter, four common types of tide gate related restoration projects were distinguished (complete tidal reconnection, partial tidal reconnection, tide gate upgrades for fish passage, and tide gate upgrades to improve rearing habitat). Chapter 6 also provides a number of “lessons learned” by restoration practitioners related to

fish ecology, project implementation, and monitoring. The final section discusses regional frameworks for collaboration, project prioritization, and reducing regulatory uncertainty. Washington's extensive experience in restoring its estuaries offers potential models, Oregon's land use planning for estuary management provides a framework to develop a coast-wide programmatic strategy, and there are recent examples of cooperation and collaboration that could provide a structure.

Chapter 7, *Findings and Recommendations*, concludes the report. "Findings" are used to identify key insights of the review team, organized into five themes: physical and ecological effects of tide gates; project scoping, prioritization, and planning; project implementation and effectiveness; future monitoring and information needs; and potential components of a Phase II follow-on project. Each of the findings provides some elaboration, as well as recommendations that OWEB can consider as they move forward with program development.

A subset of the findings and recommendations from Chapter 7, representing the key findings, are summarized below, divided into five categories.

Physical and Ecological Effects of Tide Gates

Finding 1: Limited or nonexistent connectivity significantly affects fish community composition and water quality.

***Recommendation:** The science is clear that for salmonid fish habitat and passage, the absence of tide gates is preferred, if possible. However, this does not take into consideration current land uses and other factors associated with the use of tide gates. Improved tide gates and their active management have the potential to ameliorate many adverse impacts to fish passage and water quality, especially when seasonal passage needs and habitat utilization are incorporated.*

Finding 2: Life-history diversity of juvenile coho salmon is greater than previously realized.

***Recommendation:** The clear implication of this body of literature is that, besides Chinook salmon, coastal populations of coho salmon will benefit significantly from increased connectivity and fish passage opportunities in the freshwater/estuarine ecotones of rivers and this should be incorporated into tide gate design, installation, upgrades or removal projects.*

***Recommendation:** Additional research into juvenile coho salmon rearing life histories and their habitat use would benefit practitioners if targeted to potential restoration strategies and project site selection and implementation.*

Finding 3: Estuary rearing provides increased growth opportunities for juvenile coho salmon.

***Recommendation:** Plan restoration actions with the expectation that all beneficial ecological effects, such as increased prey productivity creating improved foraging opportunities for juvenile salmon, may not occur for several years after project completion.*

Finding 4: The best restoration results have been reported for large scale and comprehensive restoration projects, and not solely tide gate upgrades.

Recommendation: Whenever possible favor comprehensive restoration projects that aim at reestablishing connectivity and ecosystem level processes over those that focus on changing one single factor (e.g., number of fish that pass, water quality above tide gates, etc.).

Project Scoping, Prioritization, and Planning

Finding 5: Oregon's Statewide Land Use planning framework includes detailed requirements for the planning and management of Oregon's estuaries that need to be recognized in project scoping, design, and implementation.

Recommendation: Social, political, and administrative considerations significantly affect the potential types, places, and methods for tide gate related restoration in Oregon's estuaries. Local conservation organizations should work with local county planners in developing future program strategies. The collaborative process for revising the Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan by Coos County and the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds (South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve and Coos Watershed Association) can serve as a model and pilot for revising other coastal estuary management plans.

Recommendation: OWEB should work with the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development to identify processes that facilitate incorporation of restoration considerations associated with both tide gate upgrades and removals as estuary management plans are revised.

Finding 6: Estuary restoration projects increasingly have multiple goals providing joint benefits.

Recommendation: Recognize that projects that can demonstrate some combination of water quality, fish recovery, agricultural conservation, flood protection, climate change resilience, and/or recreation benefits are more likely to be locally acceptable and fundable, but are also more complex and require coordinated project management.

Finding 7: Oregon lacks a comprehensive framework for estuary restoration.

Recommendation: Develop a comprehensive approach to estuary restoration in Oregon that acknowledges diverse stakeholder goals and benefits, while articulating a common vision for human uses of estuaries, floodplains, and coastal wetlands.

Finding 8: Estuary restoration projects increasingly include acquisition of the lands to be restored, a trend that is likely to continue.

Recommendation: Consider working with stakeholders to develop a more integrated approach for identifying lands that are suitable for acquisition as part of a comprehensive estuarine restoration strategy.

Finding 9: Oregon has a system of watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts that work to coordinate and support local restoration efforts.

***Recommendation:** Continue to build and maintain capacity in Oregon’s coastal watershed councils and districts for partnership building, promoting social learning regarding the multiple benefits of estuary restoration, generating support and helping to coordinate locally-acceptable restoration projects.*

Finding 10: Mitigation and environmental damage funds are underutilized for estuary restoration in Oregon.

***Recommendation:** Explore options for applying mitigation to tide gate removal, upgrade and other estuary restoration actions. This may involve administrative rule-making (or statutory changes) to better coordinate mitigation and restoration.*

Finding 11: Benefits and effects of tide gates are related to their geographic location: stream/river mouth and tributaries allow tide gate upgrades to meet multiple goals.

***Recommendation:** To maximize benefits for salmonids (and potentially other benefits such as flood mitigation) prioritize projects where the tide gate(s) are located at stream/river mouths, or tributary creeks.*

***Recommendation:** When considering projects where the tide gate is located at a field drain, ensure that suitable rearing or off-channel refuge habitat is available, or restored or created as a project component.*

Finding 12: A recently recognized ecosystem service of coastal wetlands is their extraordinary capacity to capture and sequester atmospheric carbon (known as “blue carbon”).

***Recommendation:** Continue investments in monitoring of blue carbon dynamics, and methods to quantify potential carbon benefits of coastal wetland restoration. Explore the potential for investment in tidal wetland restoration efforts by considering the interplay of such efforts with carbon sequestration.*

Project Implementation and Effectiveness

Finding 13: Upgrading a tide gate is only the first step in the process of improving ecological conditions and fish migration corridors.

***Recommendation:** To fully realize the potential benefits of restoration involving tide gates, post restoration management plans should explicitly provide for active and adaptive management of the gates in order to incorporate knowledge gained from research and monitoring, and to account for unforeseen effects or outcomes.*

***Recommendation:** Recognize that to optimize tide gate design and management for fish requires a balancing of: 1) gate opening time and width, 2) culvert width, 3) invert elevation, and 4) upstream pool depth at high tide.*

***Recommendation:** Tide gates should be managed seasonally to ensure that fish passage requirements, water temperatures and dissolved oxygen are suitable for juvenile salmonids*

when they are present in the system. Additionally, any maintenance that requires a tide gate to be closed should be conducted when salmonids are not present.

Future Monitoring

Finding 14: The information base on the effects of tide gate upgrades is very limited. Project practitioners lack support to publish monitoring results in peer-reviewed journals.

Recommendation: Provide funding support, incentives, and technical assistance to allow entities conducting monitoring of OWEB estuary restoration projects to develop publications of their findings for submission to peer-reviewed journals.

Recommendation: Continue and expand partnering with research universities to recruit graduate students to test hypotheses regarding tide gates, conduct in-depth monitoring, and publish results.

Finding 15: Long-term monitoring is critical, but this is resource and time-intensive and support for it is usually limited. There is no comprehensive estuary restoration project monitoring strategy.

Recommendation: Develop a more integrated and cohesive monitoring strategy for OWEB estuary restoration projects, starting with rigorous analysis of what questions the monitoring should be designed to inform or answer. Explicitly consider how monitoring results would be used to inform adaptive management of tide gates. To the extent possible, institutionalize and standardize existing OWEB monitoring protocols, so existing data can be compared to new data.

Recommendation: Review monitoring protocols used by other programs in the PNW (e.g. the Columbia Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Program) to inform development of a more standardized and cohesive approach for monitoring OWEB-funded estuary projects.

Recommendation: Carefully consider which projects to monitor, who will be using the resulting knowledge, and how it will be used. Focus tightly on a carefully selected subset of potential sites or projects to track through time, i.e., 10-20 years.

Phase II Project Opportunities

Finding 16: There is considerable potential for additional qualitative learning and quantitative data synthesis regarding the effectiveness of estuary restoration actions that involve tide gates in Washington and northern California.

Recommendation: Develop a scope of work to continue knowledge synthesis and development of tools to support restoration and infrastructure modernization in Oregon's estuaries. Potential components include gathering and analyzing additional documentation and data sets, developing a monitoring framework, reviewing and synthesizing frameworks for collaborative restoration, and exploring the potential for development and application of a

coast wide approach to hydrodynamic modeling to support project prioritization and alternatives analysis.

Finding 17: There is a lack of clear guidance or reports on the likely costs and benefits of various types of tide gate and estuary restoration projects.

Recommendation: *Work with the INR review team and others to further develop this concept for use in a programmatic strategy and to support restoration grant reviews.*

Conclusion. We believe there is an opportunity to expand and utilize the data sources and leads identified in this project for use in more robust analyses and syntheses, and generate new knowledge regarding the effectiveness of tide gate upgrades or removal. The information and recommendations contained in this report, coupled with additional efforts in the same vein, could foster a more holistic and integrated approach to estuary restoration projects in Oregon that involve tide gates.



Oregon

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Renee Davis, OWEB Deputy Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item F – Volunteer Water-Quality Monitoring Equipment Funding
January 30-31, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff request funding to support equipment purchases for the State of Oregon's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program (Volunteer Monitoring Program).

II. Background

OWEB's statutes recognize the importance of investing to improve water quality. Accordingly, water quality monitoring is a primary monitoring investment area for OWEB's monitoring grant-making.

The state's Volunteer Monitoring Program, housed within the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), provides support for water quality monitoring, including technical assistance and training in monitoring design, equipment use, data management, and analysis. Volunteer groups participating in the program—many of which are OWEB grantees—are eligible to receive high-quality monitoring equipment on loan.

OWEB relies on these services to ensure high-quality study designs, monitoring practices, appropriate tools, and sound data management are embedded within monitoring grants funded by the board. To ensure adequate resources are available to local groups, the board has provided periodic funding for water-quality monitoring equipment to be made available via the Volunteer Monitoring Program. This equipment enables local groups to expand the state's water quality monitoring network, informing both local watershed and larger state-level needs, such as tracking for the Total Maximum Daily Load program. More than 100 groups have participated in this program to date, gathering monitoring data from over 1,000 locations from around the state.

III. Funding Request

Funding is requested to maintain this equipment-loan service that DEQ provides to local organizations. The request for \$39,651 is itemized in the table included in Attachment A. Funds will be used to replace aging equipment, which will improve data-collection methods and data quality, and expand monitoring capability to address critical water

quality data needs. Additional detail about the monitoring equipment to be purchased is provided in Attachment B.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board provide \$39,651 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan in support of new and replacement equipment for the Volunteer Water-Quality Monitoring Program, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of January 30, 2018.

Attachments

- A. Volunteer Monitoring Program
- B. Equipment Budget and Details

| | | 2018 Proposed Budget | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Parameter | Item | Quantity | Unit Cost | Total Cost |
| Continuous Temperature Data Loggers | | | | |
| | U22 Temp Loggers | 50 | \$87.15 | \$4,357.50 |
| | HOBOWare Pro Software | 1 | \$68.12 | \$68.12 |
| | | | | subtotal= \$4,425.62 |
| Continuous Dissolved Oxygen Data Loggers | | | | |
| | U26 DO Loggers | 10 | \$917.90 | \$9,179.00 |
| | U26 DO Sensor Caps | 10 | \$76.86 | \$768.60 |
| | Onset Base Station | 2 | \$84.03 | \$168.06 |
| | Monarch Track-It Barometric Pressure / Temperature Data Logger | 5 | \$120.00 | \$600.00 |
| | | | | subtotal= \$10,715.66 |
| Fecal Bacteria Testing Equipment | | | | |
| | Iidexx Quanti-Tray Sealer and insert | 1 | \$3,500.00 | \$3,500.00 |
| | Fisherbrand™ Basic Microbiological Incubators15-015-2634 | 1 | \$1,500.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| | UV lamp WL160,6 WATT FLUOR LAMP | 1 | \$150.00 | \$150.00 |
| | WCM10 UV VIEWING CABINET | 1 | \$220.00 | \$220.00 |
| | | | | subtotal= \$5,370.00 |
| Water Quality Meter- Measures DO, Cond/Salinity, Temp, pH | | | | |
| | 4000 Traceable® Digital Thermometer | 10 | \$475.00 | \$4,750.00 |
| | ProDSS Handheld meter – Instrument w/o GPS | 2 | \$1,630.00 | \$3,260.00 |
| | ProDSS 4 sensor Cable with no depth sensor – 4m | 2 | \$1,790.00 | \$3,580.00 |
| | ProDSS Optical Dissolved Oxygen Sensor | 2 | \$1,000.00 | \$2,000.00 |
| | ProDSS Conductivity/Temperature Sensor | 2 | \$700.00 | \$1,400.00 |
| | ProDSS pH Sensor | 2 | \$450.00 | \$900.00 |
| | ProDSS Nitrate Sensor w/replaceable module attached | 2 | \$575.00 | \$1,150.00 |
| | | | | subtotal= \$17,040.00 |
| Turbidity meter | | | | |
| | HACH Turbidimeter 2100Q | 2 | \$1,050.00 | \$2,100.00 |
| | | | | subtotal= \$2,100.00 |
| | | | Grand | |
| | | | Total = | \$39,651.28 |

Volunteer Water-Quality Monitoring Program Equipment Needs

ADDITIONAL DETAIL

Additional information for each type of equipment is provided below.

Continuous temperature data loggers continue to be in demand by organizations prioritizing and tracking watershed restoration programs. The temperature data loggers generally have a 5 year lifespan due to battery limitations and mechanical breakdown of the logger body. The funding for 50 loggers would replace units previously purchased by the DEQ volunteer program.

Continuous dissolved oxygen data loggers allow for unattended continuous monitoring of this diurnal parameter. Groups have been increasingly monitoring for dissolved oxygen to better characterize DO conditions identified as a possible concern through prior grab sampling. Continuous dissolved oxygen monitors represent a growing type of support to watershed councils. Funding for additional logger base stations for downloading and programming loggers is also requested to satisfy consistent need.

Fecal bacteria monitoring continues to be a highly successful element of the volunteer monitoring program. The Idexx equipment for this monitoring is relatively expensive but has proven to be reliable method and provided valuable information to partner organizations and DEQ. These funds will expand existing capacity allowing monitoring in new areas of the state.

Water quality meters measure basic water quality parameters of temperature, conductivity, salinity, dissolved oxygen and pH. The capability of in situ nitrate concentration measurements is also a growing interest. The DEQ has been transitioning to providing multi-parameter meters to groups for better efficiency in conducting high quality monitoring relative to purchasing separate units for each parameter. The funding for the multi-parameter equipment listed will expand this type of support for groups. In addition, the DEQ's current inventory of sufficiently accurate, NIST certifiable thermometers is aging. These thermometers, are efficient tools for field auditing continuous loggers. Replacement units are needed to maintain support for groups conducting these types of monitoring. Portable barometric pressure units are also important for conducting field audits for dissolved oxygen loggers.

Turbidity meters funds will be used to replace meters that were purchased over ten years ago that have started to fail.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Renee Davis, OWEB Deputy Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item G – Coordinated Streamside Management / Strategic Implementation Area Monitoring
January 30-31, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will brief the board about Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) monitoring as part of the state's work on Coordinated Streamside Management. Staff will request funding to support this monitoring for SIAs selected during the 2017-19 biennium.

II. Background

A team of state agencies, working with federal and local partners, has developed a coordinated approach to streamside management to ensure that riparian vegetation will provide for water quality protection. The approach, which is led jointly by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and OWEB, initially focuses on agriculturally influenced areas.

The program comprises three distinct, but overlapping, components: 1) voluntary, incentive-based conservation; 2) compliance with the state's Agricultural Water Quality Management Act's area rules; and 3) monitoring to track water quality improvements, and learn about and share the most effective conservation approaches. To initiate this program, SIAs are selected based on need (e.g., diminished water quality, habitat, etc.), while considering the capacity of local organizations to deliver on-the-ground assistance. Once an SIA has been selected, state agency partners work with local partners to develop an implementation strategy for the selected area. Following development of the strategy, the SIA is eligible for technical assistance (TA) funding from OWEB for landowner outreach and project design.

III. SIA Monitoring Approach

The state is taking an interagency approach to Coordinated Streamside Management, including monitoring. Agencies engaged in developing the monitoring framework for SIAs include ODA, OWEB, and the Oregon Departments of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). The monitoring framework encompasses two scales: 1) watershed-scale monitoring that measures the uplift through time from conservation

actions; and 2) site-level analysis to learn from implementation and capture and share best practices for on-the-ground work.

The following steps will be used to create both the monitoring framework and the localized monitoring for individual SIAs:

- Agencies develop the high-level monitoring framework, including templates and guidance for creating sampling and analysis plans, quality assurance project plans, and study designs.
- Agencies and local partners collaborate to develop SIA-specific monitoring plans, including identifying monitoring questions and monitoring parameter(s), and developing components of the framework.
- State and local partners assess previously collected data to determine existence of and/or need for baseline data.
- Baseline data will be collected and/or analyzed, then used to inform SIA-specific monitoring plans and sampling design (e.g., number of monitoring sites needed).
- Monitoring, reporting, and adaptive management will continue for up to 10 years in each SIA (see Attachment A).

IV. Funding Request

Funding is requested in the amount of \$300,000 to support monitoring in each of the 12 SIAs to be selected during the 2017-19 biennium. Use of monitoring funding will be tied specifically to implementation of the SIA-specific monitoring plans outlined in Section III above. Eligible uses of the funding include equipment; training of local partners by agencies to conduct monitoring; annual monitoring tasks completed collaboratively by local and state partners; analysis to be conducted in coordination with agencies; and baseline data mining, as needed.

V. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board award \$300,000 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan for Strategic Implementation Area monitoring, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of January 30, 2018.

Attachments

- A. Coordinated Streamside Management – Monitoring Overview

Coordinated Streamside Management on Rural Lands in Oregon

Monitoring Overview

Monitoring is an essential component of coordinated streamside management. Watershed-scale monitoring can tell the story of whether and how the actions landowners take result in the intended improvements to water quality. Depending on the stream, parameters targeted for improvement may include stream temperature, sediment, nutrients, and/or bacteria. In addition to watershed-scale monitoring, evaluation of specific actions helps local groups learn and share information about the most effective implementation strategies and approaches. ODA and OWEB will engage DEQ and ODFW to develop scientifically and technically robust monitoring strategies, working with local partners to identify the parameter(s) of interest, and providing the necessary training for local partners to collect data and report results. Implementation of the monitoring strategy will document uplift to water quality through time, and provide information to support adaptive management.

Monitoring Components in Year 0-1

- 1) **Monitoring Strategy** – ODA and OWEB will coordinate with DEQ and ODFW—the agencies with extensive expertise and experience with water quality and biological monitoring, respectively—to develop a monitoring strategy. This approach will ensure that accurate baseline information about stream temperature, sediment, bacteria, and/or nutrient levels are available and can be used to show post-implementation progress. The plan will address two scales of monitoring:
 - a. Watershed-level monitoring to identify trends in water quality, and
 - b. Site-specific evaluation to learn and share information about how to implement the identified conservation practices in a way that has the best chances to achieve the intended impact.

The strategy will be coordinated with the local SWCD and/or other local partners prior to implementation. Local partners will be trained in data collection and can charge those costs to a technical assistance grant to be provided by OWEB. DEQ will complete placement of monitoring equipment and baseline data gathering.

Monitoring Components in Years 1-4

- 1) **Implementation of Site-Specific and Watershed Monitoring** - Monitoring will continue throughout the implementation process.
- 2) **Reporting** – Information about actions completed by local partners will be paired with monitoring data to determine if improvements have been made as a result of implementation. Note: In-stream signals of water-quality effects may not be seen until a few years after implementation is complete.
- 3) **Adaptive Management** - Adaptive management will be a priority for partners, using information from landowners about the effectiveness of the approach, along with data from the ecological monitoring implemented at the beginning of the program.

Monitoring Components in Years 5-10

- 1) **Implementation of Site-Specific and Watershed Monitoring** - Monitoring will continue for 2-5 years after the completion of coordinated work in the identified area.
- 2) **Reporting** – Information about actions completed by local partners will be paired with monitoring data to determine if improvements have been made as a result of implementation.
- 3) **Adaptive Management** - Adaptive management will be a priority for partners, using information from landowners about the effectiveness of the approach, along with data from the ecological monitoring implemented at the beginning of the program.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item H – Organization Collaboration Grant – Shared Space Project Update
January 30-31, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an overview of the Organization Collaboration Shared Space Project. This is an information item only.

II. Background

OWEB first announced the Organizational Collaboration grant offering in July 2013. The funding is intended to support new or expand existing strategic collaborations in order to build resilient, sustainable, local organizations that achieve ecological outcomes and engage communities. Organizational Collaboration grants support the following activities:

- 1) Evaluating the operational structure of multiple collaborating organizations to improve service delivery or reach under-served communities/geographies, which may result in sharing of staff and services among the organizations.
- 2) The merger/consolidation of organizations.

The applicants must demonstrate that the options being considered will strengthen the impact and build resiliency and sustainability of multiple organizations. Since its inception, six grants have been awarded for a total of \$493,869.

III. Shared Space Project

In 2016, the Greenbelt Land Trust, Benton Soil and Water Conservation District, Institute for Applied Ecology, and Marys River Watershed Council began investigating a shared space center in Corvallis for the benefit of local environmental organizations and the community at large. Following discussions, the four organizations applied to OWEB for an initial Organization Collaboration grant and were awarded \$47,964.00 in July 2016. At the October 2017 meeting the board awarded the organizations a second Organization Collaboration grant for \$72,848 to complete Phase II of the project.

IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only. OWEB staff and project partners will present information about this project at the January board meeting.

Attachments

- A. Shared Space Feasibility Study

Executive Summary

In October 2016, four Core Partners (Greenbelt Land Trust, Benton Soil and Water Conservation District, Institute for Applied Ecology and Marys River Watershed Council) engaged the Nonprofit Centers Network (NCN) to complete a feasibility analysis for a shared space center in Corvallis, Oregon for the benefit of local environmental organizations and the community at large. Nonprofit shared space centers have a long history of leveraging the resources of many to create collective impact for the greater good. The goal of the feasibility study was to determine demand for such space, evaluate real estate options, estimate costs of creating and maintaining a center, explore shared service opportunities and provide a roadmap for next steps.

NCN undertook an analysis of how potential tenants might locate together to better support their respective missions and joint goals. A survey of covering current and desired space usage, amenities and budget was completed with potential tenants (both Core Partners and other organizations, referred to within this report as “Tier II” partners). A Community Meeting was held to involve other stakeholders and community members in the discussion. A Theory of Change and Values Statement were developed for the project. Four preliminary project priorities were identified: (1) proximity to downtown Corvallis, (2) space for growth, (3) potential venue rental income and (4) a green or sustainable building.

For the purposes of a “test fit” of potential tenants as well as an estimate of budget size, three very different facility options were identified by the Core Partners for the feasibility study. One was the purchase of an existing building in downtown Corvallis (Option 1), a second was an option to lease all or a portion of a new building to be constructed (Option 2), and lastly, the third was the purchase of land and construction of a new building (Option 3). These three sites offer a range of locations, sizes and features for the purpose of generating realistic parameters for a potential project and to inform the Core Partners’ decision-making process. Financial modeling was completed for each option based on available information.

NCN determined the space needs of the four Core Partners are approximately 10,000 square feet and, if including other interested environmental organizations (Tier II partners), the space needs grow to about 14,000 square feet. Core Partners are currently spending between \$10-\$15 per square foot or \$111,180 per year on occupancy expenses. These parameters were incorporated into the analysis of potential shared space projects.

| Project Comparison | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Proximity to Downtown | ✓ | ✓ | ? |
| Space for Growth | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Venue Rental Income | ✓ | ? | ✓ |
| Green/Sustainable | ? | ✓ | ✓ |
| Lease Rate PSF | \$18.00 | \$14.00 | \$20.50 |
| Capital Campaign | \$4M | \$271,000 | \$5.5M |

Option Summary

Option 1 examined purchasing an existing building in downtown Corvallis. NCN used one building currently on the market for \$3 million with 20,400 square feet as a sample project and estimated the total project cost at \$6 million including renovations, soft costs and furniture, fixtures and equipment. NCN’s analysis shows that shared space tenants would need to pay \$18.00 per square foot to cover the basic operations and modest shared services (internal billing, reception, program development), assuming a capital campaign of \$4 million. A project like this has the advantage of creating enough space for robust special event rentals and room for organizational growth. However, the size of the building is also a financial risk in that there is not enough demonstrated demand at this price point. The project would also be highly dependent on a successful capital campaign.

Option 2 focused on a leasing space. There is a local builder/developer who has expressed a willingness to work with the Core Partners on a soon-to-be-built building in downtown Corvallis. In this example the builder has indicated he will provide a warm, dry shell and he is flexible on timing, space usage and lease term. The proposed building would be 30,000 square feet with 10,000 square feet per floor. NCN understands that the builder/developer will accommodate any amount of space the Core Partners wish to lease, for example, 10,000 square feet, 15,000 square feet, 20,000 square feet or 30,000 square feet. In order to simplify the analysis and provide an option with a smaller footprint, NCN assumed a lease of 10,000 square feet, or one floor. Of course, this does not preclude the Core Partners from opting to secure more space in this building. NCN assumed an annual rental rate of \$12 per square foot to be charged by the landlord for a 5 to 10-year lease. Tenant improvements, including furniture, fixtures and equipment were assumed to be financed through a capital campaign of \$271,200. **NCN's model shows this option** would require partners to pay \$14 per square foot to cover all expenses, including a modest level of shared services. With partners paying \$14 per square foot (the lowest of the three options), Option 2 has the advantage of being the most financially sustainable. By only taking on the square footage needed by the Core Partners, there is no additional financial risk, although using only 10,000 square feet may limit flexibility around storage space. If additional space for organizational growth or the inclusion of Tier II organizations were needed, there is the opportunity to secure additional space on a second floor. It is unclear if this option could be replicated in the open rental market.

Option 3 considered the purchase of vacant land and the construction of a new building on the outskirts of Corvallis. The example used is a property listed currently for sale for \$2.3 million. NCN estimated construction costs of \$3.4 million which, in addition to soft costs and a contingency, gives a total project cost of \$7.5 million. **NCN's model showed** that shared space tenants would need to pay \$20.50 per square foot to cover the basic operation of the building, assuming a capital campaign of \$5.5 million (the highest of all three options). A project of this nature, on a large parcel of land, would allow the groups to have an outdoor demonstration area for environmental stewardship projects. It would also enable them to create a building customized to their size and needs, including special event rentals and room for organizational growth. However, this type of project poses the most substantial financial risk in that it involves the highest operating cost per square foot and requires the largest capital campaign.

Recommendations

NCN recommends the Core Partners evaluate their capacity for a capital campaign before selecting a real estate option. They should determine whether adding Tier II organizations will help them meet their goals and how expanding their core group would impact the project. Once the size of the space needed and an achievable budget are known, they can determine the best facility solution to meet their shared goal of protecting natural resources and engaging more community members in their cause.

Assuming a large capital campaign is not realistic or preferable, NCN recommends Option 2 or leasing space. Option 2 offers the most flexibility in terms of space usage at the lowest price, and as such, will provide the most financial stability and opportunities for synergy for the Core Partners. This assumes the terms of the lease are as stated by the builder/developer.

NCN recommends the following next steps:

- Create a timeline for partner commitments and a deadline for submitting Letters of Interest and deposits
- Establish guidelines for a joint capital campaign and collect partner contributions of at least \$20,000
- Begin the process of forming a new 501c3 entity to either serve as master leaseholder or building owner
- Issue a joint RFP for shared IT services to demonstrate how the organizations are working together
- Focus communications on how sharing space and services will benefit the community at large

In our experience, the most successful nonprofit shared space projects have focused on (1) shared goals (in this case, environmental sustainability), (2) trust and communication among partners and the community, and (3) realistic financial goals. The Corvallis shared space project has great potential to be a platform to better serve its community and to serve as an example for nonprofit collaboration working toward a collective impact.

Introduction

In 2015, four Corvallis, Oregon based organizations (Greenbelt Land Trust, Benton Soil and Water Conservation District, Institute for Applied Ecology, and Marys River Watershed Council) initiated a discussion around the challenges of the rental market within Corvallis, including space limitations, increasingly higher rental market, and limited ability to find office space that could be adapted to suit the needs of each organization. This conversation led to a discussion of creating a shared space center for environmental organizations to lower operational costs and improve collaboration with potential for venue rental income. The four partners (Core Partners) formed a Steering Committee to pursue the concept.

The Core Partners retained The Nonprofit Centers Network (NCN) in September 2016 to assist the group with a Feasibility Study for a nonprofit shared space center. NCN is the premiere source of information on nonprofit shared space through its member network of 160+ nonprofit shared spaces throughout the U.S. and Canada. Based in Denver, CO, NCN promotes the use of shared space and shared services by spreading best practices through trainings, original research publications, conferences and consulting projects.

One of the early exercises that the Core Partners undertook in NCN's feasibility process was to identify a Theory of Change and Values Statement for the project. The Core Partners developed the following to explain their goals for a nonprofit shared space center:

Steering Committee Preliminary Theory of Change and Values Statements— *January 2017*

We believe that by co-locating, leveraging our shared resources, and working together to carry out our missions, our work will lead to more citizens of the mid-Valley actively protecting the lands, rivers and wildlife, thereby improving environmental conservation and the social fabric within our community and the natural world.

Values

1. We value collaboration to operate more effectively by leveraging our limited resources.
2. We value innovation to create a culture of creativity that accepts risk of failure as part of the process of innovation.
3. We value impact and our ability to demonstrate and measure how our efforts are creating meaningful change.
4. We value equity and diversity and the practice of equity among our clients, community, staff, and boards.
5. We value integrity, including authenticity, transparency, and honesty among all stakeholders.

The Corvallis **project's Core Partners** include:

Benton Soil and Water Conservation District (BSWCD) engages and inspires landowners and other partners to conserve natural resources, protect and restore wildlife habitat, improve water quality in rivers and streams, and enhance production and health of agricultural lands. This is accomplished through technical assistance to landowners and education/outreach to the community. Conservation Districts in Oregon are not non-profit organizations (501 (c) 3), but are 170(c)1 organizations, which means donations are tax-deductible. Conservation Districts are directed by a governing body elected by the voters. Benton SWCD board members and staff are proudly committed to serving the residents of Benton County.

Greenbelt Land Trust (GLT) is a local land conservation 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focused on protecting ecologically, agriculturally, and historically significant lands in the mid-Willamette Valley. GLT works strategically to secure significant natural areas in accordance with a careful plan. GLT strives for connectivity, linking protected natural areas with parks and public spaces to provide wildlife corridors, protect valuable natural resources, and expand opportunities for low-impact recreation and renewal. Protected—and connected—these natural areas make **communities more desirable as places to live and work, and help preserve Oregon's distinctive landscape and character.**

Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that conserves native species and habitats through restoration, research and education. IAE provides a service to public and private agencies and individuals by developing and communicating information on ecosystems, species, and effective management strategies. Restoration of habitats is a primary focus, and IAE conducts this work through partnerships with a diverse group of agencies, organizations and the private sector. IAE links the community with habitats through education and outreach.

Marys River Watershed Council (MRWC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to inspire and support voluntary stewardship of the Marys River watershed. MRWC works with landowners to restore natural function to streams and wetlands, prairies and oak savannas. In partnership with local schools and other non-profits, MRWC provides opportunities for outdoor learning through field exploration and service projects around the watershed. The Council hosts project tours, workshops and quarterly forums regarding aspects of watershed health.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden Executive Director
Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item I – Governor’s Priorities, Post-Fire Response
January 30-31, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff request the board support immediate technical assistance needs required for a local response to catastrophic wildfire impacts to watershed health on private lands as a result of the Chetco Bar Fire in Southwest Oregon. Normal project delivery mechanisms through OWEB’s Open Solicitation Technical Assistance (TA) offering are not suited to the rapid response the situation requires. Based on conversations with Governor Brown’s office, funds would be drawn from the Governor’s Priorities line item in the spending plan.

The Chetco Bar Fire requires a quick and proactive response to prevent further impacts to the watershed, including ESA-listed coast Coho. This effort could provide a template for future rapid response by OWEB to local needs following natural disasters, including flooding and wildfires, which are severely impacting watershed health on private lands.

II. Background

The Chetco Bar Fire is burning in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness in Southwest Oregon, currently 100% contained. The fire has burned 191,125 acres since first reported on July 12, 2017, and has directly impacted communities and watersheds in areas within and surrounding it. Approximately 14,130 acres of private lands were burned that include industrial and non-industrial forests, pasture, and rural residential parcels.

The Chetco Bar Fire Recovery Council’s Natural Resources Subcommittee raised serious concerns about the effects of the projected sediment loading that will result from the fire. The U.S. Forest Service Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) estimated sediment loss to be 25,890 cubic yards/square mile.

On the federal lands impacted by the fire, BAER teams move swiftly to assess and implement immediate actions to protect and minimize detrimental impacts from fires and wet season runoff. While BAER coordinates with other federal agencies and private

landowners, there is not a similar rapid response designed to assess impacts and verify the burn severity and intensity in order to prioritize and develop actions to meet the restoration needs on private lands with multiple ownerships and land use patterns.

Although OWEB does not currently have a program designed to quickly respond to natural disasters, it does have a rich history of such responsiveness, including the needs resulting from drought and salmon fishery closures.

III. Current Situation

There is an immediate need to assess fire-impacted areas on private land and develop restoration plans to stop, or significantly reduce, adverse impacts to watershed health. The timeline for OWEB's Open Solicitation TA offering is not suited to the rapid response the situation requires. The Small Grant program, which is able to respond quickly to local needs, does not support TA activities.

This need extends beyond the current Chetco Bar fire. Over many years, OWEB has been asked to provide some type of post-fire assistance on large fires. While OWEB does not have funding to meet the full needs of post-fire restoration and recovery, staff believe this proposal may provide a template that OWEB may consider for future post-fire and flood needs. In many cases, the need for assessment is immediate and OWEB could be an appropriate funding source to fill that early response void.

IV. Proposal

Technical assistance activities that are needed include: 1) GIS assessment to identify the private lands within the burn area that are most likely to degrade; 2) landowner outreach within the highest priority burn areas to assess willingness to implement restoration actions; 3) data collection through on-the-ground inventory and site assessment; 4) data analysis to develop a spatial understanding of contributing factors and potential impacts; 5) sites prioritization; and 6) appropriate restoration actions developed for potential funding opportunities. Staff would begin work immediately with the South Coast Watershed Council to develop a project proposal to support the technical work, review the proposal for technical soundness and eligibility, and begin assessment work as soon as possible.

Based on the success of this work, staff may come back to the board with a request to reserve TA funds in the spending plan for future disaster response. If a further proposal is warranted, staff will consider criteria and side boards to ensure appropriate investment of TA funds.

V. Recommendation

Staff requests that the board delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the South Coast Watershed Council to implement technical assistance activities to identify and develop responses to immediate watershed health needs caused by the Chetco Bar Fire on private lands in an amount not to exceed \$25,000, to be taken from the Governor's Priorities line item in the spending plan.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item J – Strategic Plan
January 30-31, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

OWEB staff and Dialogues in Action (DIA) will seek the board's feedback on the suite of strategies that have emerged from an extensive community involvement process in developing OWEB's new strategic plan.

II. Background

OWEB approved its last strategic plan in 2010 during a time when the agency and its associated funding were expected to sunset in 2015. At the same time, Constitutional Ballot Measure 76 passed in Oregon, making OWEB's funding permanent.

As a result of the shift to permanent funding, the board then undertook an effort in 2012-13 to develop a Long-Term Investment Strategy for granting. The strategy 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 eight years since the board approved its last strategic plan and 2018 will be five years after board approval of the strategy.

III. Strategic Plan Process Steps to Date

Who We Are: In January 2017, the board formally initiated its strategic planning process. Both the board and all OWEB staff began developing the "Who We Are" portion of the strategic plan.

Interviews: Also in January, board members and the newly established staff process team members interviewed a range of OWEB stakeholders about their experiences and work with OWEB, each interviewing at least one stakeholder.

Listening Sessions: In March 2017, OWEB staff traveled with Steve Patty to six locations across Oregon to hold strategic planning listening sessions, in addition to one virtual listening session webinar. In total, approximately 80 individuals attended, including grantees, regional review team members, agency partners, and others.

Stakeholder Surveys: In April, surveys were sent broadly to stakeholders and partners to identify what is working well in their interactions with OWEB, as well as areas for improvement. That information was provided to the board at their June meeting.

External Advisory Group: In May and June, the board's established External Advisory Group synthesized and expanded on information from interviews, listening sessions, and stakeholder surveys. In October, the group provided their input to the strategy development and they helped to prioritize strategies in January.

Board Strategic Plan Discussions: In January, April, June, July, and October the board met to vet the ideas proposed through the many processes identified above, which has resulted in the drafts of "Who We Are" and "Strategic Priorities for Impact" (attached).

IV. January Board Meeting Discussion

Strategy Development: Using the strategic priorities identified by the board, staff met throughout the fall with key opinion leaders with expertise across the eight strategic priorities to receive input and ideas for strategies the board may want to consider in its plan. Working with DIA, options were narrowed, identifying the strategies that staff believe have the most potential to address the board's priorities. These strategies will be the focus of the January board meeting discussion.

During the meeting, DIA will guide the board through the process of reflecting on three key questions: (1) Are we reaching far enough to make the impact we need to make over the next 5-10 years? (2) Are we putting anything at risk by reaching too far in any particular direction? (3) Are there any critical missing strategies?

V. Next Steps

After the January board meeting, staff will work with board committees to refine strategies based on board feedback. Priorities are assigned to committees as follows:

Executive Committee:

- Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds
- Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of all Oregonians
- Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio
- Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds

Focused Investment Committee:

- Strategic partnerships to achieve healthy watersheds

Operating Capacity Committee:

- Community capacity supports resilience in watersheds

Open Solicitation Committee:

- The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health

Monitoring Committee:

- Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

VI. Recommendation

This is a discussion item only.

Attachments

- A. Most recent version of “Who We Are”
- B. Most recent version of “Strategic Priorities for Impact” with draft plan strategies

OWEB – Who We Are

Draft 12/21/17

Preamble

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board cares about and invests state funding in the health of the land in Oregon's watersheds and the water that flows through it.

Everyone in the world lives in a watershed. Watersheds encompass every square inch of land on the planet, starting at the very top of the highest ridge. They include every place from which water flows as it enters creeks, then streams, then rivers, then the ocean and lakes. A watershed is as much about the land across and through which water flows as it is about the water itself. Urban, rural, desert, rainforest – every part of the landscape is in a watershed, and every part of the landscape matters when we talk about watershed health.

Healthy watersheds work hard. They move sediment from the mountains to their ultimate destination, beaches and bays, sorting it along the way to create diverse landscapes and habitats. They cycle nutrients and convert them into forms that living organisms can use. They purify and store water, and then meter its release into streams to reduce flooding and damaging erosion in the winter and to sustain flows and cool temperatures during the dry season. Watersheds even improve air quality by absorbing pollutants and greenhouse gases (2014 Marin County Department of Public Works).

In addition to environmental benefits, healthy watersheds matter for our state's economy and communities. A watershed that is healthy can grow big trees. When managed with care, those trees support a sustainable timber harvest. At the same time, they provide homes for owls and support habitat for salmon in the streams. A healthy watershed grows sagebrush where birds nurture and protect their young, and a place for ranchers to raise cattle that thrive. Water that runs through lands that are cared for and managed is cleaner, requiring less treatment for a family's drinking water. Clean water and healthy forests and deserts create spaces for those families to swim, camp, hike, fish, and hunt.

We care about watersheds - those lands and water that sustain us. A healthy watershed provides enough food, water, and shelter for the people, plants, fish and wildlife that inhabit it – not just for Oregonians now, but for future generations as well. In return, healthy watersheds are supported by people who reflect the diversity of their communities. OWEB will seek out and develop leaders that reflect the diversity of Oregon to engage them in the rewarding work of watershed restoration.

When the watershed and its water are vibrant and healthy, we are too.

A. How we show up

We are committed to exemplifying the values we hold to be important in this work. These are the ways we are dedicated to showing up. These ideas are about our conscience, our convictions, and the commitments about our ethos and ethic.

In all things, we will...

Be bold

We believe in pursuing the greatest potential, not the easiest path. To be bold means to go be unafraid to listen to and explore new ideas even if they run counter to established processes. It means that we will focus on opportunities and strive to overcome the barriers we face. Practicing boldness pushes us to think in new ways and try new and innovative strategies. We will encourage each other and stakeholders as we go through the growing pains of improvement.

Be open and transparent

Being open and transparent means being committed to active, two-way communication internally and externally as a means for developing and maintaining strong partnerships. We will ensure that all decisions are transparently made and their reasoning is clearly communicated. We will consistently check in with partners to make sure they understand what we've communicated.

Consider future Oregonians

Everything we do now will impact the Oregonians of the future. We will be thoughtful about helping stakeholders develop sustainable watersheds. We will be informed by Oregon's legacy of watershed restoration and cooperative conservation while developing a vision for cooperative conservation in the future that is equitable and inclusive.

Be curious

Being curious means not just accepting the status quo but asking "why," "how," and "what if?" We will approach all situations with curiosity, encouraging staff and stakeholders to ask questions as they think about our watersheds and our practices. When we are curious, we are more apt to be responsive and flexible, adapting to the opportunities and challenges around us. We will seek to listen, learn, and think about watershed health and cooperative conservation in new ways and through fresh perspectives.

B. What we believe in

We hold fast to a set of ideas that provide a fundamental and underlying rationale for our work. These are our foundational perspectives. They keep us oriented. These are the core ideas that guide us.

Dedicated to the idea that...

Healthy watersheds sustain healthy communities now and in the future.

Oregon's watersheds are intertwined with its people – the land is a part of our culture, our food and water, our work and our recreation. As a result, the well-being of all Oregonians depends on the health of our watersheds. Current and future generations need access to whole and healthy watersheds. People and communities are an integral part of their watershed, just like fish and wildlife. A community's economic and social health comes from the health of the lands that surround them and the ability to draw enjoyment from clean water, open spaces, and natural habitats.

Every Oregonian plays a role in the health of our watersheds.

We are committed to being profoundly inclusive because we believe every person of every background – whether urban or rural, rich or poor; regardless of age, ethnicity, education, beliefs, or politics – has something valuable to contribute to a healthy watershed. When people connect with their watershed, they will care for their watershed. The roles in each watershed are many and overlapping: planner, funder, doer, enjoyer, and communicator, among others. We encourage every citizen, staff, and stakeholder to find their niche and to help others find theirs.

It takes broad partnership to support resilient watersheds.

The Oregon way is unique. In Oregon, no individual landowner or community needs to grapple with watershed challenges alone. Cooperative conservation is built from broad, diverse partnerships that collaborate to develop and implement enduring watershed solutions. It is the Oregon way to invest in restoring and sustaining healthy, resilient watersheds. Public investment in watersheds is a value and commitment of Oregonians.

The work to improve our watersheds requires we take the long view.

Healthy watersheds require the stewardship of generations. With permanent funding, we have the opportunity to test approaches that get to root causes. The challenges we must address came from generations of impacts, and will require we and our partners take the long view in determining the best approaches to address them. We are engaging in work we might not see the end of; it requires patience, persistence, discipline, and a vision for the future that embraces the long view.

C. The impact we want to achieve

Our ideas of intended impact are the areas of the change we would like to see in Oregon as a result of our work. These ideas describe how Oregon will be different as a result of all that we and our partners accomplish. Everything we do is designed to achieve results in the following areas of impact.

Our work is in service to...

1. Healthy, resilient watersheds (Ecological)

What we mean: A healthy, resilient watershed provides clean water and a vibrant place to live for people, fish and wildlife, now and in the future. OWEB's investments will result in measurable improvements that lead to healthier streams and healthier upland habitat, while ensuring that the work of our grantees is resilient to long-term impacts to the environment.

- Plentiful, clean water for all
- Enhancing, protecting, and restoring watershed process and functions
- Healthy watersheds that sustain the health of people, their culture and their communities
- Protection and restoration of healthy watersheds and natural habitats
- Biological – Fish, wildlife, and native plant recovery; biodiversity
- Strengthened natural ecosystems
- Greater sustainability of water resources and improved water quality throughout Oregon
- Measurable improvement toward ecological outcomes
- Monitoring, evaluation, and learning embedded in watershed work throughout Oregon

2. Broad care and stewardship of watersheds by Oregonians (Social)

What we mean: Broad care and stewardship of Oregon's natural places can come about only by greater understanding, awareness, and appreciation by each Oregonian of the impact of their everyday actions on the health of their watersheds. Working with partners, OWEB will make special effort to meaningfully engage each Oregonian, based on their unique connection with the land – whether cultural, spiritual, economic or recreational.

- Greater understanding and awareness of, and appreciation for watersheds
- People are meaningfully connected to their watersheds
- Engagement of underserved and under-represented populations
- Tribal involvement, contribution, and leadership for watershed health
- People believe in the abundance possible through watershed stewardship
- Oregonians consider the impact of their everyday actions on

watersheds

- Awareness of watershed issues to become more mainstream
- Involvement of the next generation in the conservation effort

3. Adaptive capacity of communities to support their watersheds (Community)

What we mean: OWEB seeks to ensure all communities empower diverse stakeholders to design, implement, and evaluate collaborative conservation actions. Engaged community members are better able to adapt to new ideas, address new challenges and design new approaches to improve their watershed. When landowners, land managers and local citizens are actively involved in shared learning and leadership within local organizations, the capacity of communities to improve the health of their watersheds is expanded.

- Empowered communities through partnership and shared knowledge
- Diverse members of communities engaged in in conservation
- Greater empowerment of local residents to action
- Landowners and land managers are better able to achieve conservation goals
- Local leaders who endeavor to improve the health of their watershed and communities
- Building social capital in communities around the state (i.e., building blocks for participatory engagement around a shared community vision)

4. Strengthened economies emerging from healthy watersheds (Economic)

What we mean: Oregon's natural resource industries – agriculture, forestry, fishing, recreation – are dependent on healthy watersheds to be sustainable. The work of restoring natural areas creates jobs in communities, and the impact of a healthy watershed extends to all segments of Oregon's economy and is essential for the economic vitality of the State. When communities understand the link between healthy watersheds and a strong economy, they are more likely to invest in improving both.

OWEB will support the capacity of local organizations to engage their community in cooperative conservation while benefiting Oregon's diverse economies.

- Enhanced benefits for a sustainable economy built on natural resources, restoration, ecosystems, and the broader economies throughout Oregon
- Healthier, more sustainable opportunities to live off the land
- People see that watershed health and economies are in alignment
- Fostering and growing economic opportunities in voluntary restoration

- Engage communities in a restoration economy
- Organizational capacity to advance conservation missions
- Direct benefit to citizens from municipal watersheds that supply drinking water

5. Strong and diverse partnerships that promote and sustain healthy watersheds (Sectoral)

What we mean: Strong and diverse partnerships include the meaningful involvement of local, regional, and statewide organizations, public and private investors, government partners and experts from across Oregon. By understanding the needs of the watershed and community, OWEB is uniquely positioned to help to connect resources with communities. Collaboration allows the opportunity for cross-pollination of ideas, cross-boundary work, adaptive learning, and heightened fidelity to science. OWEB will encourage partners to develop a common vision and objectives to improve their watershed.

- United conservation efforts throughout Oregon
- Common vision and objectives shared by stakeholders
- Cross-sector action to improve watersheds
- Interconnectivity among watershed enhancement agencies
- Integrated, interagency efforts
- Cross-boundary work to maximize the benefits of conservation investments
- More collaboration and cross-pollination of ideas among natural resource agencies
- Advancement of watershed science and practice
- Progress and learning around watershed management practices
- Evidence/science-based practices utilized
- Promotion and education of best practices in watershed management
- Increased knowledge in the field
- Heightened fidelity to science throughout those interacting with watersheds

D. The approach we take

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

Our work is characterized by...

Involving stakeholders broadly and in partnership

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

Using best available science supported by local knowledge

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

Investing with long-term outcomes in mind

- Maintaining progress into the future
- Stewarding for the long term
- Taking the long view on projects and interventions

Demonstrating impact through meaningful monitoring and evaluation

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

Reaching and involving underrepresented populations

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

OWEB - Strategic Priorities with Strategies

Draft Materials for Review by the OWEB Board
January 30-31, 2018

Priority 1 - Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds

What we mean

OWEB serves as an information source and catalyst for partners as they carry messages to their stakeholders about the importance of watersheds to the health and vitality of all Oregonians. This will include the development of story-telling and community engagement with dual goals. First, to help Oregonians take an active role in the health of their watershed and second, to increase awareness of the role watersheds play in improving the well-being of the people who reside in them. This will result in a growing care and stewardship of local watersheds and a deeper commitment to watershed work throughout the state.

Characteristics of the future

- Populations not typically involved in the care of watersheds become interested and active
 - Oregonians appreciate the importance of watersheds, resulting in shared care and concern for those watersheds
 - Broad-based understanding of the plight of watersheds
 - Recognition that the current investment Oregonians make in the health of their watersheds pays dividends in their community and local economy
 - Awareness of OWEB as the steward of measure 76 fund investments in their watersheds
-

Strategies

1. Develop and implement broad awareness campaigns (I)

Develop innovative and consistent messaging. Use existing networks to deliver broadly relevant messages to traditional and non-traditional audiences. OWEB will partner with outside entities as a vehicle for broad engagement.

- Develop positive, action-oriented messages/slogans that can be shared
- Implement OWEB's 20th Anniversary campaign, including story-telling
- Utilize marketing and branding strategies to increase consistency in messaging
- Implement media engagement to reach broader audiences
- Engage with non-traditional partners (e.g., health, recreation, agricultural industries, etc.)

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|--|
| 2 | 1 | EAG and staff differed in their highest ranking for strategies in this priority. |

2. Highlight personal stories to tell the economic, restoration and community successes of watershed investments (S) (*aligns with coordinated monitoring strategy*)

Harmonize existing ecological, social, and economic data with personal stories of watershed conservation.

- Work with local partners to humanize the work OWEB funds
- Tap into grant reporting and data collected to give empirical data that supports story-telling
- Celebrate successes with media campaigns

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | EAG and staff differed in their highest ranking for strategies in this priority. |

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

What we mean

OWEB's board and staff will engage with partners and grantees to develop models and approaches that actively involve all Oregonians in improving the health of our watersheds. In its own practice, OWEB will seek out and develop leaders that reflect the diversity of Oregon to engage them in the rewarding work improving the health of their watersheds. OWEB will adopt practices that support diversity in our own work and encourage equity in our grant-making through training, peer-to-peer learning, and other awareness-increasing approaches. This will shape the culture of the watershed work over time, developing a restoration system that is diverse and inclusive.

Characteristics of the future

- Healthy watersheds are supported by partnerships that reflect the diversity of their communities
- Diversity of involvement in all aspects of watershed work
- New, diverse individuals and partnerships elicit more out-of-box thinking
- Better insight for watershed strategy resulting from diverse perspectives representing all aspects of Oregon population and culture

Strategies

1. Listen, Learn and Gather Information (Si)

The agency will start by learning from others with more experience and knowledge. This includes a commitment to continuous learning by understanding who our current grantees, partners and stakeholders are and clearly identifying the gaps in these areas and how they are represented. This is important to fully incorporate inclusive approaches into OWEB's mission.

- Identify others who are already working in this area
- Evaluate OWEB's internal and external processes through DEI lens
- Understand Oregon demographics
- Understand the types of organizations we are funding -- Who is missing to meet the agency's core mission?
- Understand who are stakeholders are working with -- Who is missing in order to meet the agency's core mission?
- Based on listening to others, develop a definition of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion that helps OWEB meet its core mission

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|--|
| 3 | 1 | Staff responses note importance of engaging in a 'listening/learning' approach first. Out of ALL strategies, this strategy had the largest gap between the two groups. |

2. Evaluate and create new opportunities to expand who is at the table (Is)

OWEB will evaluate staff and board recruitment processes to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion to meet the agency's core mission. OWEB will intentionally reach out to and engage under-represented communities for staff and board recruitment. In addition, OWEB will work with stakeholders to help them improve their work to recruit and engage under-represented communities for staffing, volunteers, and board members at local organization.

- Utilize existing and new partnerships to help stakeholders recruit and engage under-represented communities
- Develop specific recruitment strategies and share with stakeholders to help all more inclusive
- Seek new partnerships to recruit high quality, diverse board and staff
- Develop a continuous feedback loop - look at strategies again after we listen and learn

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|-------|
| 1 | 2 | |

3. Develop funding strategies with a lens toward Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (Is)

As OWEB defines and develops understanding around increasing inclusion, the agency will develop strategies to address the gaps identified in the information-gathering phase. This includes intentionally considering the impact and relevance of diversity, equity and inclusion in OWEB's grant-making to meet the agency's core mission.

- Consider targeted approaches to invest in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) efforts
- Consider ways to invest in the intersection between tribal priorities, cultural values and restoration projects

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|--|
| 2 | 4 | Staff noted important to make sure this wasn't an additional funding need – should be incorporated, not additive |

Priority 3 - Community capacity supports resilience in watersheds

What we mean

OWEB will work with partners at all levels to design resources and deploy tools to enhance the capacity of communities to participate in cooperative conservation. Local partnerships will have the support they need to develop and implement strategic, science-based approaches to improve watershed health. OWEB will support watershed organizations and associated watershed work at all levels in pursuit of a statewide restoration network that is resilient and sustainable, and capable of achieving ecological outcomes.

Characteristics of the future

- Investment in high-performing organizations at all levels
- Shared learning and resources exist for organizations to assess and improve their effectiveness
- Strong local organizations have the resources to accomplish their mission
- Organizational funding and other technical support is available for planning and implementation of watershed health strategies
- Effective networks exist among local conservation organizations and between those organizations and other community groups for information sharing and awareness
- Community organizations have the skills needed to adapt and respond to the challenges of a changing environment

Strategies

1. Evaluate and Identify Lessons Learned from OWEB's past capacity funding (Si)

(aligns with Coordinated Monitoring Strategies Priority)

OWEB has been funding the operating capacity of watershed councils and water quality program implementation through SWCDs for more than 18 years. OWEB intends to continue funding watershed councils and SWCDs, while exploring both how the funding is provided and ways to improve its effectiveness in achieving watershed health outcomes.

- Complete retrospective evaluation of SWCD and watershed council investments
- Analyze information gained through funding of focused investments, watershed councils and SB 1010 funding for SWCDs; establish process to monitor, evaluate, and reflect on opportunities to improve

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|--|
| 3 | 1 | Be clear about what will be evaluated here |

2. Evaluate best approaches to invest in organizational, community, and partnership capacity (I)

Organizations and agencies at all levels provide various forms of capacity to support restoration work. OWEB will evaluate approaches to help stakeholders identify capacity needs and gaps, and determine capacity investment opportunities that increase restoration on the ground.

- Working with stakeholders, develop a framework of the functions a community needs in order to deliver conservation and restoration programs (aligned with M76)
- Explore geographic/regional capacity funding, not just funding to individual organizations.
- Consider expanding eligible entities to tribes and other organizations
- Consider benefits/challenges of increasing OWEB’s investment in capacity
- Analyze investments at different time scales
- Help local groups define their restoration ‘community’ for purposes of partnership/community capacity investments
- Consider grant avenues for capacity and partnership funding (small, medium, large; short and long term)

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | Learn from successful organizations. |

3. Provide funding and support for regional shared services (Is)

Many individual organizations cannot support all the functions they need to deliver services locally. Analyze approaches that help communities share services - not every organization needs to internally house all functions.

- Evaluate opportunities to invest in shared services approaches (technical, HR, legal)
- Provide tools to help local partners identify shared service opportunities - local facilitation, training, development

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|-------|
| 2 | 3 | |

Priority 4 - Strategic partnerships to achieve healthy watersheds

What we mean

OWEB will be a statewide champion for partnerships in watershed health. OWEB will help develop the environment and provide guidance to allow strong and effective partnerships of all sizes and at all levels to grow and flourish.

Partnerships that are more inclusive, equitable, effective, consistent, reliable, purposeful, and innovative will amplify the impact of watershed work and develop resilience and capacity in the organizations seeking to improve and sustain healthy watersheds.

Characteristics of the future

- Consistency in the practice of partnership formation and governance, while recognizing that every partnership should be a reflection of its community
- Resource sharing among and between partners for a common goal
- Leveraging of resources in regions for the benefit of all organizations
- Effective and strategic partnerships throughout the state
- Coordination among partners to achieve measurable outcomes

Strategies

1. Identify areas for alignment of strategic partnership investments with other funders (Is) *(aligns with Stable and Diverse Funding Strategies Priority)*

Oregon has a number of public and private funding organizations that have an interest in natural resources, conservation, and communities. Providing support to align and coordinate resources and focuses will help achieve more efficient and timely use of resources to address common priorities.

- Identify potential allies who many have an interest in strategic partnership investments
- Develop common understandings and identify opportunities for coordination and collaboration
- Develop 'convening' strategies to bring funders together around new topics and innovative investment strategies

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|-------|
| 1 (tie) | 1 | |

2. Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches (Is)

New, non-traditional partners (corporations, recreation and healthcare industries, etc.) can add value to strategic partnerships that improve watershed health. This takes new and different approaches to reach out to partners and engage them in ways that benefit their organization. Outreach is one critical component of establishing and maintaining partnerships.

- Identify potential allies
- Identify outreach and engagement strategies
- Consider ways to support stakeholders to help them engage more diverse partners
- Provide resources to help organizations expand partnerships that increase their capacity

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|-------|
| 1 (tie) | 2 | |

3. Continue to catalyze and increase state/federal agency participation in strategic partnerships (Is)

Natural resource agencies have complementary missions in support of watershed health. OWEB can support existing and new models that increase engagement of state/federal agencies in strategic partnerships.

- Elevate partnership discussions at the director-level with state natural resource agencies
- Utilize state/federal agency partner members of the OWEB board to expand agency partnerships
- Develop approaches to help local organizations improve partnerships with state/federal agencies

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|-------|
| 3 | 3(tie) | |

4. Develop more robust partnership support for stakeholders (Si)

OWEB will enable the successful development of new partnerships and help existing partnerships thrive. OWEB’s role is to support, not lead, the partnership process.

- Provide resources that serve the unique needs of both new and existing partnerships
- Support convening of new partnerships
- Develop tools to support partnerships – ‘Best Management Practices’; training, etc.
- Help partners identify their member strengths and how to capitalize on them; Develop a strengths-finder tool for partnerships

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|-------|
| 4 | 5 | |

5. Provide tools to help strategic partnerships to assess and improve their effectiveness (Is) *(aligns with Coordinated Monitoring Strategies Priority)*

OWEB will work with stakeholders to develop a strategic partnership evaluation tools to help partnerships to assess their partnerships. From this information, local partners and OWEB can identify partnership organizational outcomes and gather lessons learned.

- Create measures that help partnerships improve while at the same time, increasing the ability to report organizational outcomes consistently across partnerships
- Focus on community benefits
- Coordinate closely with local partners, state and federal agencies, and other funders to ensure measures are useful in a variety of contexts

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 5 | 3(tie) | |

Priority 5 - Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio

What we mean

OWEB will work with traditional and non-traditional funders to support the work that watershed organizations accomplish in communities. At the same time, OWEB and partners will work with these same organizations to strengthen their ability to seek and secure more diverse funding sources for watershed work. This two-pronged approach will provide communities the resources to move forward strategically and boldly in addressing watershed restoration needs.

Characteristics of the future

- Locally supported organizations will have access to more diverse funding sources
- Stable, resilient funding for restoration through OWEB and other funders

Strategies

1. State Agency Strategy: Increase coordination of state restoration investments and develop funding vision (Is)

There are a number of state agencies who provide funding related to watershed health, water quality and habitat. OWEB can support the development of statewide coordination of investments including grants, mitigation, and other funding mechanisms.

- Support development of a state investment vision to create clarity from the highest levels of the executive branch to local landowners
- Utilize mitigation funding to leverage restoration and conservation efforts
- Evaluate OWEB's role in coordinating funding across agencies
- Develop cross-agency approach to coordination of grant and other investments at a state level

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|-------|
| 1 | 1 | |

2. Foundation strategy: Identify common investment areas with private foundations (Si)

Foundations may or may not know about the important restoration work occurring in Oregon. While restoration may not be a priority for foundations, the additional benefits of restoration projects may be. Jobs, community capacity, health, and community resiliency are just a few additional benefits that come from restoration projects, which may be of interest to private foundations.

- Develop messaging around the multiple benefits of restoration investments; Work with other funders to change our language to better reflect the suite of values—including community and economic
- Develop strategies to work with foundations to invest in strategic partnerships around conservation and restoration
- Find ways to reduce the risk of projects from the funder’s perspective to encourage project investment

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|-------|
| 2 | 2(tie) | |

3. Corporate strategy: Explore creative funding opportunities/partnerships with the private sector (I)

Corporations in Oregon have a vested interest in clean water and healthy watersheds. OWEB will work with partners to identify ways to help corporations invest strategically in the health of their local watershed.

- Identify companies who have an inherent interest in natural resources, water and watersheds
- Work with companies to identify sponsorship models that work for them
- Expand grantee capability to seek corporation investments in local projects
- Find ways to reduce the risk of projects from the funder’s perspective to encourage project investment

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|-------|
| 3 (tie) | 2 (tie) | |

Priority 6 - The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health

What we mean

OWEB will develop strategies to help local partners engage broader participation among those who own and manage working lands. This includes working broadly with partners who own or manage working lands and conservation communities to develop intentional approaches that fully embrace the value of well-managed working lands to habitat, water quality, and local economies.

Characteristics of the future

- Farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners are fully engaged in decisions about the health of their watersheds
- Tribes are fully engaged in decisions around working lands and healthy watersheds
- Owners and managers of working lands understand the value of conservation; communities understand the value of working lands
- Working landowners continue to build a culture of conservation
- Landowner involvement includes and extends beyond the agriculture and forestry communities to rural and other landowners
- Oregon has a diverse cohort of engaged working lands opinion-leaders and proven methods to reduce mixed use conflicts
- Funders offer more meaningful incentives to involve broader, more diverse landowner participation

Strategies

1. Implement Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (I)

Working with partners and the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission, finalize rules, solicit for applications, and determine appropriate funding sources for working lands easements, management plans, and succession planning for agricultural landowners. Full implementation is funding-dependent.

- Engage with funders who have an interest in supporting working lands
- Continue to support federal funding for working lands easements and conservation practices
- Finalize program development and work with local organizations to determine landowner demand for the program

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|--|
| 1 | 1 | Noted importance of funding-dependency for this program. |

2. Work with partners to increase working lands projects on farm, ranch and forestlands

There are many areas in the state where working lands strategies and habitat/water quality priorities intersect. A number of statewide agencies and organizations have strong connections with farmers, ranchers and forest land owners. OWEB will partner with those organizations (formally and informally) to increase landowner involvement in conservation – whether through a program or on their own. OWEB can continue to work with partners at the state and local level to identify strategic areas where the agency can focus its investments on that intersection, highlighting the compatibility of working lands conservation strategies.

- Utilize statewide coordination group to identify and implement technical support tools for local partners; assess available resources and identify needs and develop pathways to fill those needs
- Engage multi-agency resources to help target/develop assistance to landowners
- Understand how Oregon’s Land Use Program benefits working lands and capitalize on those opportunities
- Convene resource specialists to help identify species and habitat needs/opportunities and where they intersect with working lands
- Develop state level plans with partners to invest strategically in working lands projects
- Partner with NRCS and other agencies who are implementing successful working lands approaches
- Identify funding and funding gaps for working lands
- Fund infrastructure improvements that have economic and conservation benefits
- Evaluate opportunities for incentives to increase landowner participation

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|-------|
| 2 (tie) | 2 | |

3. Support Technical Assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands (Is)

While local organizations are very effective at working with farm, ranch and forest landowners, there are some landowners/managers who have not yet been engaged in conservation for a variety of reasons. OWEB can coordinate with other partners to help local organizations effectively engage new landowners in their community.

- Assess current available technical resources and identify areas where these resources are needed and plan how to meet those needs, including long-term stewardship
- Support funding for boots on the ground
- Provide tools for grantees to reach “new” landowners who may not know best practices or be familiar with conservation options

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|-------|
| 4 | 3 | |

4. Develop engagement strategies for owners/managers of working lands (Is)

Landowner engagement will be an important component of the working lands movement to build understanding and support for the work as well as identify opportunities to work with interested land owners.

- Effectively engage community leaders to help build support and understanding for the work
- Tell stories of effective conservation projects on working lands
- Find new approaches to get information out about programs to landowners and entities engaging with them, including both conservation on working lands and long-term stewardship of projects – make sure this approach is consistent across all regions
- Broadly communicate economic and conservation value of working lands; emphasize message of dual benefits of working lands that speak to the balance of conservation and working lands
- Help working landowners continue to engage and build a culture of conservation on working lands – ensure consistency across regions
- Better data and tools to demonstrate how OWEB investments support local economies and communities
- Help grantees find local leaders who can influence other landowners in each community and make personal introductions between other landowners and conservation practitioners
- Help grantees access tools that demonstrate complementary nature of conservation with farm and ranch economic goals

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|-------|
| 2 (tie) | 4 | |

Priority 7 - Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

What we mean

OWEB will develop greater capacity throughout the system of watershed stakeholders to monitor progress, learn from projects, track effectiveness, gather data, respond to data, and advance the cause of healthy, resilient watersheds through monitoring and evaluation. OWEB will work with partners to ensure frameworks to receive and share information exist. These frameworks will take advantage of the best scientific thinking and latest methods and technology in and outside the restoration community. OWEB and partners will develop monitoring 'networks' to which organizations in all parts of the state can contribute.

Characteristics of the future

- Seamless interaction of data and learning among broader audiences and agencies
- Information and learning is current, meaningful, accessible, and available
- Loops of learning become habitual throughout the sector
- Understanding of science and science-based practice continues and is elevated
- Decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results
- Evaluation of impact, not just effort, is practiced broadly
- Impact on ecological, economic and social factors are considered
- Information learned is broadly communicated

Strategies

1. Initiate broad communication of restoration outcomes and impacts (*aligns with Broad Awareness*) (Si)

Expand broad communications about the ecological and socio-economic results of OWEB's investments to demonstrate the value of these investments and their connection to human well-being.

- Measures of both ecological and social/economic outcomes show relevance of OWEB's investments
- Communication campaign to get info in front of the public on a regular basis
- Tell the story of watershed work, progress, and impact

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|---|
| 2 | 1 | In general, monitoring priority was rated 1st by staff and 2 nd by EAG |

2. Strategically invest in monitoring over the long term (Is)

For effectiveness monitoring to be successful there needs to be long term sustained effort – or, at the very least, an ability to sample or measure indicators at appropriate time scales.

- Help grantees develop realistic approaches for what to monitor, purpose, and timeframe
- Explore networks to support monitoring capacity at the right scale
- Consider subject-matter, semi-regional monitoring teams
- Encourage paired restoration/monitoring approaches that 1) use scientific understanding to design on-the-ground actions that will lead to measurable ecological outcomes, 2) use implementation monitoring to track results of actions and 3) link to habitat and/or population trends

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|-------|
| 1 | 2 | |

3. Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring (Is)

Develop monitoring and adaptive management guidance to provide technical support.

- Integrate approaches that better link on-the-ground actions to expected ecological outcomes into strategic action planning and monitoring
- Create a monitoring SWAT team to support local organizations as they design monitoring
- Develop clearer guidance about what and how to monitor

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|-------|
| 3 (tie) | 2 | |

4. Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners. (Is)

Develop communication strategies to share results, incorporate information into restoration planning, and support adaptive management. This will be accomplished through the creation of networks, venues and communication tools that bridge the gap between research/monitoring and on-the-ground work.

- Accelerate science/practitioner communication
- Help share the state of monitoring knowledge via workshops, symposia, etc.
- Develop regional monitoring networks with practitioners, experts, and researchers
- Make data relevant and available to practitioners
- Organize a peer exchange to share experiential learning
- Leverage completion reporting to determine what we've learned and provide loops of learning
- Expand peer-to-peer learning and information exchange, including from other states
- Develop formal/coordinated approach to peer-to-peer learning

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|-------|
| 3 (tie) | 4 | |

5. Define Monitoring Priorities (Si)

Assess what OWEB wants to achieve through monitoring and then create the resources and tools necessary. Define appropriate monitoring scopes or scales. Consider the operational contexts to determine what is appropriate for any given partnership or organization.

- Promote monitoring as a critical component and identify other funding partners for this work
- Integrate monitoring with other OWEB investments
- Think more about building programs instead of simply funding projects
- Require and fund monitoring of large restoration projects

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|-------|
| 5 | 5 | |

6. Develop and Promote a Monitoring Framework (Is)

Encourage local partners to develop consistent approaches, clear goals, shared scope and scale for their watershed monitoring.

- Increase the capacity for appropriate high-quality monitoring
- Encourage use of a consistent monitoring framework, methodologies, and tools
- Increase interagency collaboration and development of a common vision for monitoring at a larger scale
- Complement larger-scale monitoring planning with a nested approach that has a smaller scale component

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|-------|
| 6 | 6 | |

Priority 8 - Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon’s watersheds

What we mean

OWEB will catalyze, support, and encourage the design and implementation of watershed health innovations by grant applicants. These innovations can reach beyond project implementation to touch all areas of OWEB’s granting that support healthy watersheds – from capacity and partnership development to technical assistance, implementation, and monitoring. OWEB will continually weigh the agency’s investment risk to encourage design and experimentation in watershed work while ensuring the public benefits from our investments.

Characteristics of the future

- Risk of innovation is shared among diverse partners
- OWEB has established approaches for gauging the risk and weighing it against the potential gain of proposed innovative watershed work.
- OWEB has established approaches for evaluating the benefit of implemented innovative practices so as to inform decisions about future proposed innovations
- OWEB has increased nimbleness and adaptability as grantees propose and do adaptive restoration work

Strategies

1. Invest in landscape restoration over the long-term. (Is)

Expand funding opportunities for large-scale conservation efforts over multiple years

- Invest in large-scale conservation actions that may result in meaningful ecological outcomes
- Engage with local partners over several years to provide secure conservation and partnership development funding
- Share results of long-term efforts and lessons learned with the broader conservation community

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|-------|
| 1 | 1 | |

2. Develop appropriate investment approaches that recognize the dual conservation and economic drivers and benefits of watershed actions. (aligns with working lands priority)(Is)

Traditional conservation incentives may hinder participation; while at the same time, new, untested incentives may be developed to reach new audiences. In addition, effectively conserving and restoring watersheds requires a thorough understanding of how economics and restoration/conservation actions intersect.

- Consider where economic drivers and decision-making may hinder restoration and develop strategies to address them
- Identify new economic approaches that can incentivize conservation
- Improve understanding of economic benefits of conservation and watershed health
 - Economic impacts of healthy fish runs, water quality, healthy watersheds
 - Industries that are supported by healthy watersheds

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|-------|
| 3 | 2 | |

3. Provide space for experimentation and capture lessons from restoration and partnership investments (Is)

Deliberately invest in both programs/projects that are traditional (with predictable outcomes) and innovative (where more risk exists).

- Convene partners to develop, then provide incentives for innovative ideas
- Allocate funding specifically for innovation
- Capture any and all lessons learned in experimental projects
- Utilize existing OWEB reporting to evaluate and share lessons learned, gaining knowledge from existing watershed partnerships
- Build a portfolio that intentionally creates space for grades of risk
- Allocate risk levels from safe to emergent
- Formally recognize that lessons learned are a part of a project’s success; failure can be an option

| EAG Rank | Staff Rank | Notes |
|----------|------------|-------|
| 2 | 3 | |

January 30-31, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update L-1 Legislative Update

This report provides the board an update to the 2017-2018 legislative interim and the 2018 legislative session.

Background

In the 2017 legislative session, revisions to OWEB-related statutes were passed, including a change to the date of submittal for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds biennial report to even-numbered years to capture accomplishments for the full biennium. The Oregon Legislature will meet for the 2018 “short –session,” February 5th through March 9th.

Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds Biennial Report

Oregon Revised Statute 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. In January 2017, OWEB completed and submitted the 2015-2017 biennial report.

With the statutory change to the reporting date of the biennial report made in the 2017 legislative session, it is necessary to submit an updated version of the 2015-2017 biennial report. Attachment A provides the Executive Summary of the report. The full updated report is available at: <http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/Pages/BiennialReport.aspx>

2017-2018 Legislative Interim

Oregon Legislative interim committees met on September 18-20, November 13-15, and January 10-12. During these Legislative Days, the committees hold informational hearings on topics that may lead to legislation in future sessions and hear updates on the implementation of past legislation, and to approve executive appointments. On November 13th, Jan Lee and Liza Jane McAlister were confirmed to the OWEB Board by the Senate Interim Committee on Rules and Executive Appointments.

2018 Legislative Session

The 2018 Legislative Session is scheduled to meet February 5th through March 9th. Attachment B includes a list of relevant natural resources committees (including chairs and members). OWEB did not introduce any agency legislative concepts for this session. At the January meeting, staff will update the board on any late-breaking information on legislative concepts that may impact the agency.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator, at eric.hartstein@oregon.gov or 503-986-0029.

Attachments

- A. Updated 2015-2017 Oregon Plan Biennial Report Executive Summary
- B. Natural Resources Committees for the 2018 Legislative Session



2015-2017 BIENNIAL REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

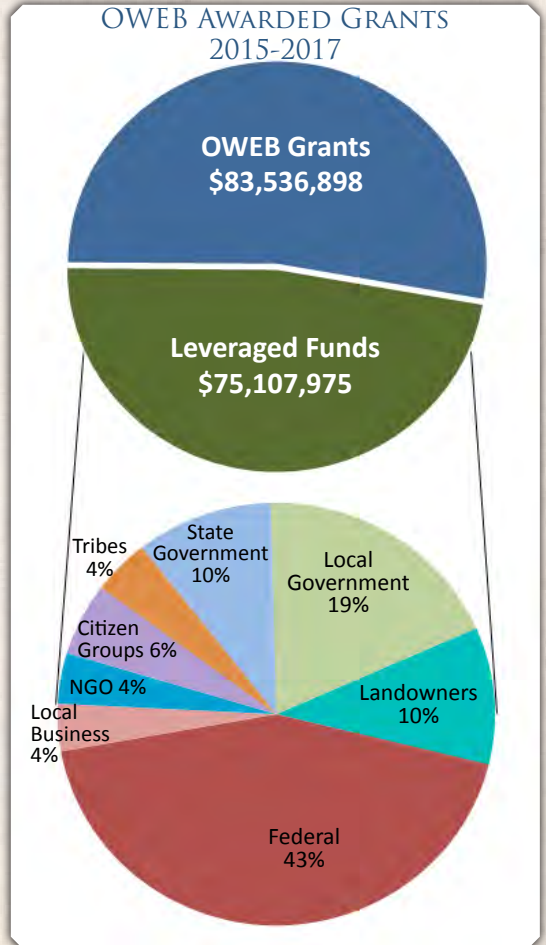
The *Oregon Plan* for Salmon and Watersheds

From rural landowners to urban residents, Oregonians value watersheds as a key to our quality of life in Oregon. This care and commitment helps drive on-the-ground projects that aim to improve water quality and restore habitat for native fish and wildlife. Since 1997, the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (or ‘the Oregon Plan’) has guided these efforts. The Oregon Plan provides a statewide framework for restoration and conservation of the state’s watersheds and fish and wildlife habitats, while at the same time supporting local economies and enriching Oregon’s communities through local, voluntary restoration. Pursuant to Oregon Revised Statute 541.972, the Oregon Plan Biennial Report describes activities implemented under the plan for the 2015-2017 biennium. This Executive Summary of the biennial report highlights key investments and accomplishments over the past two years; coordinated actions among Oregon Plan partners and agencies; and recommendations from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) about future work. The full report can be found on the [Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds website](#) and includes information about each region of the state, as well as additional details about the activities and accomplishments summarized below.

2015-2017 INVESTMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Total funding for watershed enhancement projects in Oregon was over \$158 million during the 2015-2017 Biennium. This total includes funding provided by OWEB from the Oregon Lottery, the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF), salmon license plate revenues, and other sources. PCSRF, funded by NOAA Fisheries, remained an important contributor to Oregon’s restoration efforts. Significant funding to match these dollars is provided by other funders, agencies, and partner organizations, increasing the impact of OWEB funding throughout the state.

Partners under the Oregon Plan are as important and diverse as the actions they undertake to benefit salmon and watersheds. These partners include landowners, non-profit organizations, tribes, local businesses, individuals, and all levels of government, each contributing to collaborative investments designed to support priority actions across the state.



Grants awarded by OWEB from 7/1/15 to 6/30/17, the amount of leveraged funds contributed by grant participants, and the percentage of leveraged funds contributed by different categories of participants.

| Watershed Metric | OWRI | BLM | USFS | Total |
|--|----------|-------|-------|----------|
| Riparian Miles (e.g., streamside plantings) | 245.6 | 128.8 | 187 | 561.4 |
| Instream Habitat Miles (e.g., wood placement) | 153.6 | - | - | 153.6 |
| Miles of Fish Habitat Made Accessible | 142.0 | 16.6 | 182.0 | 340.6 |
| Stream Crossings Improved for Fish Passage | 91 | 8 | 64 | 163 |
| Push-up Dams Retired to Improve Fish Passage | 14 | - | - | 14 |
| Fish Screens Installed on Water Diversions | 31 | - | - | 31 |
| Upland Acres (e.g., juniper thinning, seeding) | 68,141.4 | - | - | 68,141.4 |
| Wetland Acres (e.g., wetland habitat created) | 2,128.2 | - | - | 2,128.2 |
| Miles of Road Closures | 21.0 | 1.5 | 274.0 | 296.5 |
| Miles of Road Improvements (e.g., erosion control) | 53.0 | 111.5 | 125.0 | 289.5 |
| Miles of Riparian Invasive Treatments | 508.0 | - | - | 508.0 |

Watershed restoration activities completed from 1/1/15 to 12/31/16 as reported to the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI), U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Restoration metrics are collected after projects are completed and reported to OWEB. Therefore, there is a lag between the current biennium and the time period for which metrics are available.

COORDINATED AGENCY ACTIONS

Oregon Plan agencies recognize the value of shared approaches. Collaboration across state natural resources agencies continued throughout the 2015-2017 biennium on several key interagency initiatives, including (but are not limited to):

- The Sage-Grouse Conservation Partnership ([SageCon](#)), which brings together landowners, agencies, and interest groups to identify and address threats to sagebrush habitats and the species that rely on them, implementing the [Oregon Greater Sage-Grouse Action Plan](#) (2015);
- The Conservation Effectiveness Partnership, a collaborative effort among multiple state and federal agencies that aims to describe the effectiveness of cumulative conservation and restoration actions in achieving natural resource outcomes through collaborative monitoring, evaluation, and reporting;
- Agricultural landowners engaging in innovative

and results-oriented water quality improvements with assistance from Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA's) Coordinated Streamside Management and Strategic Implementation Areas initiative;

- Ongoing implementation of Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (led by the Oregon Water Resources Department) and the state's Federal Forest Health Program (led by the Oregon Department of Forestry);
- The first update to the [Oregon Conservation Strategy](#) in 2016; and
- Initial implementation of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's [Multi-Species Coastal Management Plan](#) for salmon and other native fish.

Additional information about coordinated actions around the state focused on monitoring water quality and quantity, fish populations, and habitat, are described in the [Biennial Report](#), along with details about other Oregon Plan agency programs.

FROM THE OWEB BOARD



In the past two biennia, the OWEB Board has made recommendations in four significant investment areas: Operating Capacity, Open Solicitation, Focused Investments, and Monitoring. During the 2015-2017 biennium, OWEB invested significant effort in turning these recommendations into reality, awarding over \$13 million in Operating Capacity grants; over \$45 million in Open Solicitation grants; nearly \$14 million in Focused Investment Partnerships; launching a new online grant application system; and continuing to support monitoring and reporting on all aspects of the Oregon Plan.

The OWEB Board has nearly completed an update to its 2010 Strategic Plan, which provides an opportunity for the agency to strategically look at its programs and granting decisions, and consider how best to address new challenges and seize upon new opportunities over the long term.

As we look toward the future, the Board recommends support of several investment areas and partnerships.

- Continuing to invest in local organizational capacity via OWEB's Operating Capacity grant-making and locally driven, high-priority projects—including working lands approaches on both forestry and agricultural lands around the state—through Open Solicitation grants, along with effectiveness monitoring of these investments.
- Making programmatic investments that contribute to the conservation and recovery of native fish and

wildlife and their habitats through coordinated, large-scale programs. Examples include:

- Investing in future Focused Investment Partnerships and associated monitoring and tracking of progress by these partnerships.
- Continuing OWEB's commitment to greater sage-grouse habitat restoration by investing at least \$10 million in funds between 2015 and 2025.
- Assisting with implementation of the federal recovery plan for Oregon Coast coho salmon by supporting development of strategic action plans in support of coho restoration work.
- Developing partnerships with other state and federal agencies to improve the use of water-quality data to inform conservation and restoration investments and develop tools to improve water quality and streamside health on agricultural lands. One example is Coordinated Streamside Management, initiated by ODA and OWEB to improve water quality, initially focused on agricultural lands.
- Supporting Oregon's forest health by administering grants to forest health collaboratives in partnership with Oregon Department of Forestry.
- Supporting Oregon's working farms and ranches in coordination with agriculture and conservation organizations to identify approaches to keep working lands in agriculture while supporting fish, wildlife and other natural resource values. Find more information on the [Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program webpage](#).

2017-2018 Oregon Interim Legislature OWEB-Related Committee Assignments

Table 1: Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

| Member | District | Area (Basin) |
|----------------------------------|----------|---|
| Sen. Michael Dembrow, Chair (D) | 23 | Portland (Willamette) |
| Sen. Alan Olsen, Vice-Chair (R) | 20 | Canby (Willamette) |
| Sen. Herman Baertschiger Jr. (R) | 2 | Grants Pass (Rogue) |
| Sen. Cliff Bentz (R) | 30 | Eastern/Central Oregon (Multiple) |
| Sen. Floyd Prozanski (D) | 4 | South Lane and North Douglas Counties (Willamette/Umpqua) |
| Sen. Arnie Roblan (D) | 5 | Coos Bay (Oregon Coast) |
| Sen. Kathleen Taylor (D) | 21 | Milwaukie (Willamette) |

Table 2: House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

| Member | District | Area (Basin) |
|---------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| Rep. Brian Clem, Chair (D) | 21 | Salem (Willamette) |
| Rep. Susan McLain, Vice Chair (D) | 29 | Hillsboro (Willamette) |
| Rep. Sherrie Sprenger, Vice Chair (R) | 17 | Scio (Willamette) |
| Rep. Greg Barreto (R) | 58 | Cove (Umatilla) |
| Rep. Sal Esquivel (R) | 6 | Medford (Rogue) |
| Rep. Caddy McKeown (D) | 9 | Coos Bay (South Coast) |
| Rep. Andrea Salinas (D) | 38 | Lake Oswego (Willamette) |
| Rep. David Brock Smith (R) | 1 | Gold Beach (South Coast) |
| Rep. Brad Witt (D) | 31 | Clatskanie (Lower Columbia) |

Table 3: House Energy and Environment Committee

| Member | District | Area (Basin) |
|----------------------------------|----------|---|
| Rep. Ken Helm, Chair (D) | 34 | Washington County (Willamette) |
| Rep. Karin Power, Vice Chair (D) | 41 | Milwaukie (Willamette) |
| Rep. Phil Barnhart (D) | 11 | Central Lane/Linn Counties (Willamette) |
| Rep. Pam Marsh (D) | 5 | Ashland (Rogue) |
| Rep. Paul Holvey (D) | 8 | Eugene (Willamette) |
| Rep. Werner Reschke (R) | 56 | Klamath Falls (Klamath) |
| Rep. David Brock Smith (R) | 1 | Gold Beach (South Coast) |

Table 4: Joint Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee

| Member | District | Area (Basin) |
|----------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| Sen. Lew Frederick, Co-Chair (D) | 22 | Portland (Willamette) |
| Rep. Brad Witt, Co-Chair (D) | 31 | Clatskanie (Lower Columbia) |
| Sen. Fred Girod (R) | 9 | Stayton (Willamette) |
| Sen. Kathleen Taylor (D) | 21 | Portland (Willamette) |
| Rep. Sal Esquivel (R) | 6 | Medford (Rogue) |
| Rep. Ken Helm (D) | 34 | Washington County (Willamette) |
| Rep. Rick Lewis (R) | 18 | Silverton (Willamette) |
| Rep. Karin Power (D) | 41 | Milwaukie (Willamette) |

January 30-31, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update L-2: Rulemaking Update

This report provides the board an update on ongoing rulemaking on OWEB's grant programs.

Background

At the July 2017 meeting, the board authorized staff to initiate rulemaking for **technical assistance grants**. In addition, at the July meeting, the board approved the 2017-2019 spending plan for the agency, which included an increase of the cap on **small grants** from \$10,000 to \$15,000. The current small grant program rules specifically state the cap for the program is \$10,000. To increase the cap, rulemaking is required for the small grant program.

Small Grants Rulemaking Update

In addition to increasing the cap to \$15,000 for small grants, OWEB staff have identified an inconsistency with current rule language regarding tribal representation on small grant teams, and will better align the language with statute. Other minor updates to the rule language will also be proposed. The proposed changes to the rules are relatively small and technical in nature, thus a rule advisory committee (RAC) will not be convened to discuss the proposed rules and provide feedback. OWEB staff intends to revise the rule language, and following a public comment period, bring the proposed rules to the board for approval in April.

Technical Assistance Grants Rulemaking Update

OWEB does not have rules specifically for technical assistance grants. Technical assistance grants are authorized under Division 5, OWEB Grant Program administrative rules, which is a broad rule division that encompasses all of OWEB grants. Following board authorization in July 2017, a RAC is currently being established to provide input on the development of technical assistance grants rules. OWEB staff and the RAC will meet over the winter and spring to develop technical assistance grants rules. OWEB staff will provide an update to the board at the April meeting, and following a public period, expects to bring proposed rules to the board for approval in June.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator, at eric.hartstein@oregon.gov or 503-986-0029.

January 30-31, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update L-3: Focused Investment Partnership Capacity Building Name Change and 2018 Offering Schedule

This report provides the board an update on the name change for Capacity Building Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grants to Development FIP grants and provides the board an update on the schedule for the second offering of the biennium.

Background

At the July 2017 meeting, the board adopted its 2017-2019 spending plan and allocated \$1 million for Capacity Building FIP grants. The funding is intended to support existing partnerships to build their capacity to partner at a high-performing level, to generate a new strategic action plan, and/or enhance an existing plan for an OWEB Focused Investment Priority.

Name Change

During the development of the FIP Program rules, it was identified that “Capacity Building” did not fully capture the intent of the program, which involved the development of strategic action plans in addition to partnership support. OWEB staff worked with the rules advisory committee to propose a new name of the program, Development FIP grants. The new name will be used on all program materials moving forward.

Development FIP Grant Offering Schedule

At the October 2017 meeting the board awarded \$440,397 to four Development FIPs (\$380,397) and for the development of financial plans (\$60,000) by the newly awarded Development FIPs. Staff also asked the board to approve a second Development FIP grant offering during the 2017-2019 biennium.

The schedule, provided below, allows OWEB staff time to update application materials with improved messaging on the purpose of the grant and do outreach to potential applicants. Staff will meet with the Focused Investments Subcommittee prior to the release of the grant offering.

Table 1: Schedule of Activities for Development FIPs

| Date | Activity |
|------------------------|---|
| April 2018 | Announce offering in coordination with CONNECT Conference |
| August –September 2018 | Consultations |
| October 22, 2018 | Application Deadline |
| January 2019 | Board Award |

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov or 503-986-0046.

January 30-31, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update L-4: Lower Columbia River Watershed Council Update

This report provides the board an update on the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council's progress towards meeting OWEB's funding requirements associated with the 2017-2019 Council Capacity grant award.

Background

At the July 2017 OWEB Board meeting, the board discussed and awarded Council Capacity grants for the 2017-2019 biennium. After deliberation, the board elected to fund the Columbia River Watershed Council at a reduced level (\$47,347.50) for a period of one year. A second year of funding is contingent upon the Council demonstrating that it has met the necessary merit criteria as demonstrated through progress reports, council meetings, and an interview and review process with OWEB.

Grant Agreement Special Conditions

The Council's grant agreement includes a list of special conditions that the Council must fulfill during the grant period. Progress reports are required on a quarterly basis documenting the Council's work on each of these five criteria: effective governance, effective management, progress in planning, progress in on-the-ground restoration, and progress in community engagement. The Council provided its first progress report on October 13, 2017 and the second is due January 8, 2018.

Evaluation Process

The Council's progress toward meeting the merit criteria over the next year will be evaluated through:

- 1) Review of the quarterly progress reports (Attachment A);
- 2) Attendance at Council meeting;
- 3) Meetings with Council staff and board members; and
- 4) Council staff and board member participation in an interview and review process.

OWEB staff will present the results of the evaluation process and the board will make a decision on the second year for capacity funding at the June 2018 board meeting.

Progress to date

The Council has been meeting monthly, with meeting notices and minutes emailed to both OWEB's North Coast Representative Katie Duzik and Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff. The Council has contracted with Shawn Morford, Network of Oregon Watershed Councils Director, for facilitation as the Council works towards meeting the grant agreement special conditions. Katie Duzik and Courtney Shaff will provide additional updates the board on the Council's progress at the January 2018 board meeting.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov or 503-986-0046.

Attachments

- A. Progress Report

Lower Columbia Watershed Council
Progress Report to OWEB for Meeting Merit Criteria – January 2018
(OWEB requirements in bold)

Merit Criteria #1: Effective governance

- **Actions the council is taking to demonstrate implementation of council governance procedures separate and distinct from the district. These must include, but are not limited to 1) documented review and update of the council's board officer position descriptions; 2) Documentation that the council is using a variety of methods to advertise and invite the public to council meetings; 3) Completion and review at a council meeting the council's self-assessment**

The Lower Columbia Watershed Council, through its Fiscal Sponsor, the Columbia SWCD, contracted with the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils for technical assistance in meeting the merit criteria requirements in late October. Shawn Morford attended council meetings in November and December and conducted eight phone interviews with council members and OWEB staff to learn more about the issues and opportunities for the council to meet the criteria. Shawn made presentations to the council at the November and December meetings including sharing information on organizational development (e.g. what percent of time an organization typically needs to spend on its own internal functions vs. time on projects), options the councils have for fiscal sponsorship, and recommendations for immediate steps the council are needed towards meeting the criteria. Shawn facilitated a individual brainstorming exercise that helped council members identify “what business the LCWC is in.” Among the responses were:

- Fish populations and passage connectivity, fish habitat, coho
- Early detection of issues in the watershed
- Increasing riparian habitat
- Increased community knowledge about the watershed; fostering stakeholder knowledge- all ages
- Enabling local control and health of resource-based industries
- We are about collaboration- linking community interests
- Measuring conservation impact- creating baselines, assessing the collective difference conservation is making in the watershed

This initial exercise was designed to help the council members think through their niche and strategic direction going forward.

Among the deliverables in Shawn's contract is a written guide called "A Road Map to OWEB Merit Criteria" that outlines specific actions and timelines for meeting the criteria which was distributed to the council members at the end of December (attached).

Among Shawn's strong recommendations is the establishment of several council committees to enable more focused and detailed work than what can be conducted at public council meetings. These include: Outreach committee to plan community engagement activities, an election committee to establish a process and run officer elections, a bylaws committee to review and update bylaws as needed, and a projects committee that oversees the projects of the council, including joint projects conducted with the SWCD.

The council coordinator announced her resignation in November; this represented a potential a gap in the council's capacity to move forward to achieve the merit criteria. In response, the council established a small task force of council members at their December meeting to work with Shawn to move ahead on the set of requirements, beginning with learning more about fiscal sponsorship and then renegotiating the Fiscal Sponsorship agreement with the SWCD, and establishing a hiring committee to work with the SWCD in replacing the coordinator as soon as possible.

Three members volunteered to serve on the task force: Chip Bubl (representing OSU Extension), Henry Franzoni (representing sport fishing) and Ian Bledsoe (representing public utility). The team met with Shawn in a half-day work session on Dec 27 in Rainier, including a two-hour session with Kari Hollander, the SWCD District Manager. During this meeting, the existing MOU/Fiscal Sponsorship agreement with the SWCD was reviewed alongside two other council/SWCD agreements for comparison (Curry and Hood River). The team worked with Kari to draft new fiscal sponsorship agreement components for approval by both boards at their February meetings. The meeting produced bullet points agreed upon by both parties and Henry Franzoni agreed to write it up into draft language for the task force and Kari to review before their next meeting on January 18, scheduled at Kari's office. Among the provisions to be included in the new MOU/Fiscal Sponsorship agreement are as follows:

While the SWCD ultimately maintains legal, supervisory, and financial responsibility for the council as its fiscal sponsor,

- *LCWC will sets its own priorities based on its own annual action plan and that the action plan will be based in part on community input obtained through outreach efforts and through council member input.*
- *The LCWC coordinator's position will be 100% devoted to watershed council activities and the coordinator's work plan will be directed by the council as long as the council is adhering to SWCD personnel and other policies affecting the coordinator. These could include joint projects with the SWCD (such as the current RCPP project and Westport Slough), but the roles and expectations of the LCWC coordinator on those projects will be negotiated and clarified as the funding proposals and work plans are being developed.*
- *The SWCD will prepare and submit to the LCWC at least quarterly financial documents that show the expenses and income specifically for the watershed council and these will be presented at*

council meetings. Time sheets will continue to be completed by the new coordinator that will show the work of the coordinator by activity which will be available for review by the LCWC Executive committee or council membership as requested.

- *The coordinator hiring committee will be a joint committee involving both the SWCD and LCWC.*
- *Performance review of coordinator will also be conducted jointly.*
- *As the fiscal sponsor, the SWCD will submit grant proposals on behalf of the council but the council will lead the proposals and forward them to the SWCD for their approval and submittal. In each grant proposal for which the council will utilize the funds separate from the SWCD, the LCWC will be listed as the project lead.*
- *LCWC council will assign a liaison to the SWCD board who will attend SWCD meetings and report back to the watershed council on activities and relevant decisions of the SWCD.*

Among the immediate tasks of the LCWC is replacement of the coordinator. At its December meeting, the council appointed council members Chip Bubl and Ian Bledsoe to serve to work with Kari throughout the hiring process and decisions, including drafting the job description job announcement releasing the job announcement by Jan 15, with application deadline of Jan 31. Interviews will be conducted no later than early February, with the aim to have new coordinator in place no later than March 1. SWCD hiring procedures/process will be followed but the work and decisions will be done by this joint hiring committee. Shawn provided examples of coordinator job descriptions to this team.

The OWEB self-assessment survey was completed by council members using the Network of Oregon Watershed Council's Survey Monkey account in December. Eleven members completed the survey. Shawn Morford has compiled the results into a report and a Powerpoint and will be presenting the findings at February meeting for council discussion.

Merit Criteria #2: Effective management

- **Actions the council is taking to demonstrate implementation of effective council management practices separate and distinct from the district. These must include, but are not limited to 1) Documentation, through council board meeting minutes, that the council coordinator is updating the council board, in writing, at each council meeting of the coordinator's activities and the board has the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on those activities 2) A description of the actions taken by the council to track the work of the council coordinator for the council separate and distinct from work performed for the district; 3) Documentation, through council board meeting minutes, that the council board is reviewing and approving council financial information at monthly council meetings.**

Coordinator Selene Keeney submitted a written and verbal report to the council at its November and December meetings of her activities which are reflected in the meeting minutes. These reports accompany to this report.

At the Dec 27 work session, Kari agreed to attend at least 3-4 watershed council meetings per year beginning in 2018 so that council members have the chance to know her and visa versa. Kari agreed that she would prepare (or her staff would) a watershed council budget report each month (or quarterly, depending on the frequency desired by the council members) in time for the council meeting that shows a column for watershed expenditures and income that is separate from the SWCD.

Merit Criteria #3: Progress in planning

- **Actions the council is taking to demonstrate progress in planning separate and distinct from the district. These must include, but are not limited to 1) Documentation, through council board meeting minutes, that the council board reviewed and adopted the Council Capacity Work Plan update, due April 30, 2018; 2) A description of progress the council is making to engage stakeholders in planning and prioritizing the work of the council.**

The watershed council meetings are currently announced in the following ways:

- The Council currently has an Outlook contact list and snail mail list comprised of Council members and people with an interest in the council that are used to disseminate meeting and event notices.
- The meetings are announced in the OSU Extension newsletter, which is online and mailed. The LCWC monthly meeting has been announced every month in 2017 on the front page calendar. The newsletter has a ~1300 mailing list. For example, http://extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia/sites/default/files/country_living_december_2017.pdf
- Shawn Morford contacted the Clatskanie Chief, Chronicle, and Spotlight newspapers to ensure that they have information they need to announce each meeting in their papers prior to the meetings.
- The LCWC currently has a page on the SWCD website at <http://www.columbiaswcd.com/about/watershed-councils/lcrwc> , however the Council now has developed the structure for its own standalone website that is under construction (<https://www.lowercolumbiariver.org>). The new coordinator and the new outreach committee of the council will be tasked with populating this website and announcing the new site when it's ready for release.

Shawn will meet in late January with the task force to review the current action plan and begin the process of preparing for council discussion at the February and March council meetings. It's

likely that Shawn will facilitate the council through development of a logic model at the March meeting that will form the basis of a revised action plan. The logic model will show long term and shorter term goals and what actions the council will take to achieve the goals.

Merit Criteria #4: Progress in on-the-ground restoration

- **Actions the council is taking to implement on-the-ground restoration work separate and distinct from the district.**

The council is currently working on several joint projects with the SWCD. To clarify the distinct roles of the SWCD and the council on these projects, the council task force is scheduled to meet with District Manager Kari Hollander on January 18 and jointly create a chart for existing joint projects that spells out each of the roles of the SWCD and the LCWC (template below). This will become a “living” chart that will be updated as new joint projects are identified and it will be shared at SWCD board and watershed council meetings to keep members up to date on how the two entities are cooperating and the time and deliverables that the LCWC staff is committed to for that project. For each new joint project that comes along in the future, both SWCD and LCWC representatives will be involved in determining the roles of their respective entities as the projects are in development (in particular the LCWC members will be involved in determining the LCWC staff’s commitment to a new project).

| Project | SWCD role | LCWC role |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| RCPP | Will be filled in | Will be filled in |
| Westport Slough | Will be filled in | Will be filled in |
| ETC | Will be filled in | Will be filled in |

Merit Criteria #5: Progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes

- **Actions the council is taking to implement community engagement activities separate and distinct from the district.**

Other than public meeting announcements and a public comment period during each meeting, this merit criterion will be addressed by the new outreach subcommittee of the board that is likely to be established at the February or March council meeting. It’s expected that the subcommittee will begin the process of identifying community engagement activities for 2018 that will be handed off to the new coordinator for implementation. It is anticipated that most community engagement activities will take place during the warm-weather season such as field tours or booths at the Columbia County Fair, but there could also be speakers at council meetings open to the public throughout the rest of the year as well.

APPENDIX

A Road Map for Meeting OWEB Merit Criteria (and beyond)

For the Lower Columbia Watershed Council

December 30, 2017

Shawn Morford, PhD, Network of Oregon Watershed Councils

The work of the council to move ahead to Year 2 funding involves three major categories of tasks to satisfy OWEB requirements and create sustainable governance model for the LCWC. This road map also lists ways that Shawn can help in the next phase (January – May):

A set of tasks related to the watershed council's fiscal sponsor arrangement, which is currently with the Columbia SWCD.

- reaffirming decision to stay with Columbia SWCD as fiscal sponsor or research/consider alternatives.
- if decision to stay with Columbia SWCD, revisiting the terms of the fiscal sponsorship agreement to add more specifics about how authority is delegated and to spell out how activities of the SWCD and WC complement each other. (Note: This is planned for the last week in December).

Internal tasks related to your governance and priority-setting process

- creating council committees (see below)
- creating an outreach plan
- revisiting and revising the capacity action plan
- revisiting or affirming the council's strategic goals- what would success look like, as defined by the WC

Tasks associated with branding and increasing community engagement

- these are things that can be done by a new coordinator depending on when they are hired and will start
- circle back on how meetings are promoted in the community to ensure local media is picking them up
- finish populating your new website
- plan and deliver some events/meetings that engage a broader group of community members

Immediate next steps (January)

A subcommittee of the council (I have dubbed the “Roll Up the Sleeves” team- RUST, (RUST- consisting of Chip Bubl, Ian Bledsoe, and Henry Franzoni) to meet on January 18, 5:30 at the SWCD office in St. Helens with Kari Hollander as a follow up to the Dec 27 work session in Rainer that took place with Shawn, Kari, and the RUST. Topics to include:

- creating a chart that shows SWCD roles and WC roles on the existing joint projects (such as RCPP) to show the delineation

- reviewing the draft revised MOU/Fiscal Sponsorship agreement that arose from the Dec 27 work session and finalizing the draft to be reviewed and approved by the SWCD board and WC at their February meetings.

Shawn to meet with Kari and KC in person in late January to ensure items are checked off for first payment request. The following tasks are required by OWEB in order to receive the first payment on the capacity grant:

- List of council officers sent to OWEB
- Match form completed and sent to OWEB
- Copy of insurance document to OWEB
- Description of how supervision of coordinator occurs between SWCD/WC (e.g. how WC is involved in helping with review performance and hiring process)
- Description of how council manages expenditure of grant funds

There is an immediate need to move on hiring a coordinator. At the Dec 27 work session, there was agreement to create a joint hiring committee consisting of Chip Bubl, Ian Bledsoe, and Kari. The team will aim to rework the job description and prepare the job announcement by mid-January and release the announcement using the SWCD procedures, to close January 30 with interviews early February. The aim is to have the new coordinator in place no later than March 1.

Longer-term tasks (Jan- April 2018)

1. Board self-assessment

Explanation/Specifics

OWEB requires this survey and discussion to be conducted each calendar year by all watershed councils that receive capacity funding. It is designed as a learning and discussion tool for boards for continuous improvement.

Task to be done when- recommendation

Survey was conducted on line in December and 11 council members filled it out. Shawn has summarized the results into a report and powerpoint.

How Shawn could help as desired by council in Phase 2, if desired

Shawn administered the survey in Nov/Dec. 2017 and can report on results and discuss at February council meeting. The discussion should be reported in the meeting minutes.

2. Administrative

Explanation/Specifics

OWEB has asked that the coordinator continue to provide monthly written and verbal coordinator report to the board. The report should describe which activities are specific to the WC and which are joint activities with the SWCD as a whole. The written report should include a monthly timesheet that breaks out time spent, by grant. Verbal report is reflected in the board meeting minutes and written report kept in file with minutes.

Task to be done when- recommendation

Until a coordinator is in place, Shawn can provide monthly written and verbal reports to the council at each meeting and ensure that the report gets to Marilyn (secretary) so they are included in the minutes. The SWCD's timesheet should be used by the new coordinator once they are in place and made accessible to the officers of the council (or the full council, if desired by the members).

How Shawn could help as desired by council in Phase 2, if desired

As above, I can prepare a written report to the council for January meeting (since I will be gone), and in person and in writing for the February, March, and April meetings.

3. Outreach and community engagement

Explanation/Specifics

OWEB has asked the council to advertise and invite the public to council meetings and to communicate with wide group of community members on activities of the council.

Task to be done when- recommendation

Establish an outreach committee of the council to help the coordinator develop a simple outreach plan. Appoint a chair to assume responsibility to ensure that these activities get completed.

Council meeting notices should be sent to local newspapers' for placing in their calendar/events page – in the Chief, Chronicle, Spotlight? If special speaker/presentation comes to council meeting, send brief announcement or press release. (Currently in the Chief: Columbia Soil & Water Conservation District Board meets at 7 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month at the Columbia SWCD office, 35285 Millard Road but as far as I can see, nothing about the watershed council). Ask a council member to take this on until a new coordinator is named.

Check to ensure that the database (spreadsheet) of council stakeholders and friends (“mailing list”) is updated and continue to send meeting notices and updates to the list by email and by snail mail to those without emails.

Consider setting up a LCWC Twitter and/or Facebook account. Finish populating and launch of new LWCW website and advertise the new website to the mailing list.

Create brief annual report or brochure about the council and distribute to council database and send to elected officials.

How Shawn could help as desired by council in Phase 2 if desired

I could help set up Facebook or Twitter accounts, send meeting notice again to newspapers that could be used in repeated calendar, and help new coordinator populate the new website, with council committee input.

4. Fiscal Sponsorship

Explanation/Specifics

OWEB has asked for a reviewed/revisited/revised MOU or fiscal sponsorship agreement with the SWCD. A jointly created and detailed fiscal sponsor agreement would outline more specifics about things like how hiring will be done, how budgets are developed and reviewed, how action plans are developed and reviewed and approved. There are good examples to draw from that include a chart showing who has what role. Start with the current agreement and add detail to it. There are good models to draw from (Hood River and Curry Co).

Task to be done when- recommendation

A four-hour meeting was held on Dec 27 between Kari and the Roll Up the Sleeves Team (RUST) to review the existing agreement and outline more detail. Revised agreement to be endorsed by SWCD board and WC members. Since the first payment request hinges on this agreement, it should be a high priority- endorsed by LCWC and SWCD board at their February meetings. This means the draft should be sent out with the agenda for the February meeting to the watershed council members.

How Shawn could help as desired by council in Phase 2, if desired

I can help facilitate discussion at meeting with SWCD and WC, if desired at the January 18 meeting of Kari and the Roll Up the Sleeves Team.

5. Council capacity action plan revisit/revision

Explanation/Specifics

OWEB has asked that the WC capacity action plan be revised to show how its work is distinguished from district functions. It needs to spell out the elements of the WC that are different than what the SWCD would do in the absence of the WC. This means looking at current work plan and adding in

language to show the distinction. What projects are joint between watershed council and the district and what is the watershed council solely involved in. The action plan will detail what each entity is contributing in case of joint projects.

Task to be done when- recommendation

The Roll Up the Sleeves Team (RUST) will take on the task of reviewing and revising the action plan. The “Roll Up the Sleeves” team brings a revised draft to the council at February meeting as an information item, and put on agenda for board approval at March meeting. Council approval of revised council capacity action plan is due April 30, 2018 (OWEB’s deadline).

How Shawn could help as desired by council in Phase 2, if desired

I can work with the RUST to help coach them through revision of the capacity action plan by meeting with them in late January in person.

6. Board functions/governance

Explanation/Specifics

Kari has agreed that the SWCD can adjust how it shows the financial reports to show separate column for WC and SWCD showing restricted funds committed for council activities. This report should be made available for presentation at council meetings at least quarterly (in the first six months, perhaps monthly). The chair can work with Kari or the new coordinator to get these reports in time for the board meetings. They should be sent out in advance with the agenda so members have the opportunity to review ahead of time.

KC should add financial reports to the council agenda. Marilyn should reflect this report in the minutes each month. The council should also receive an annual financial report.

Council should establish a committee structure and appoint members and chairs to it. This could be done at the January or February meeting.

- Projects committee.** Will provide oversight on council projects (except outreach projects), including joint projects with the SWCD.
- Bylaws committee.** Will review existing bylaws and recommend changes to the bylaws as needed.
- Elections committee.** Will serve as nominating committee and will run officer elections to ensure fair and open process.
- Outreach committee.** Will develop an outreach plan and as needed, help implement activities (or recruit others to help) once the new coordinator is in place.

OWEB expects a review and update of the council member job description.

Task to be done when- recommendation

The RUST will draft the council job description in late January based on examples provided by Shawn. Council will approve the revised job description at February board meeting.

How Shawn could help as desired by council in Phase 2, if desired

I can provide examples of board job descriptions and committee descriptions and meet with the committee to walk through the job description.

7. Watershed council branding

Explanation/Specifics

OWEB is interested in the unique branding of the watershed council. I recommend the council aim to have 'watershed council-branded' events that involve wide set of stakeholder groups and community members in either **learning** (such as a speaker series), **priority-setting** for the council (such as a stakeholder pizza night to ask community members what their biggest priorities are), or otherwise aim to connect the council with **new sectors** such as economic development (such as co-sponsoring community events with local economic development group). These things can be identified in an outreach plan as mentioned above.

OWEB wants to see how the council is engaging stakeholders in planning and prioritizing work of the council. There are several ways this can be done—other councils do stakeholder surveys, special events specially designed to invite input, or at special council meetings designed to invite in a broader set of stakeholders.

Task to be done when- recommendation

The outreach committee should be responsible for identifying these events in their outreach plan. Ideas to consider:

- 4 public presentations per year sponsored by watershed council
- Co-sponsor a public event with a new partner - 2 per year
- Sponsor an award program to recognize a local partner or landowner to promote public awareness of watershed health and stewardship.

How Shawn could help as desired by council in Phase 2, if desired

Your new coordinator could organize these events but I can convene the outreach committee and help them draft this plan.

8. Goals and desired outcomes unique to the LWCD

Explanation/Specifics

I recommend that the council consider creating a logic model for your work (a graphic that shows the link between what you do and what you expect to result from your work- see attached example). This would not be exactly the same as what a SWCD's logic model might look like. This is not required by OWEB but is a very helpful tool to help the council establish its own priorities and

goals, in my opinion. OWEB expects the council to set its own priorities for activities separate from the SWCD as a whole, even if some projects are ultimately done in partnership with the SWCD.

Task to be done when- recommendation

At the March council meeting, outline a plan for the projects it will aim to take on in next biennium. List the partners who they will work with to accomplish them (SWCD and others).

Create logic model at February or March meeting.

How Shawn could help as desired by council in Phase 2, if desired

I can help facilitate the development of the council's logic model and calendar.

KEY MILEPOSTS on the road to OWEB Year 2 funding approval:

- 1) Assignment of a 'roll-up-sleeves team' to work with Shawn on specifics of OWEB requirements- DONE.
- 2) Hiring new coordinator and getting coordinator in place. ASAP. Process will use SWCD procedures but involve a joint hiring committee of Chip, Ian, and Kari. Aim for new coordinator to be in place by March 1.
- 3) New Fiscal sponsorship agreement drafted, presented and approved by SWCD and WC boards at their February meetings.
- 4) Progress report due January 8 and April 2 based on OWEB's merit criteria. Shawn to write the progress report for January for review by the 'roll-up-sleeves' team.
- 5) Submit updated Capacity action plan – due April 30
- 6) Set meeting with OWEB between May 7 and 11- board officers and OWEB staff to go over the progress.

January 30-31, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update L-5: State Revolving Fund Loan Application for Septic System Upgrades

This report updates the board on a new effort in partnership with Craft3, a nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution, to apply to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality State Revolving Loan Fund to provide affordable loans to owners of failing On Site Sewage Disposal Systems (OSDS). If the project moves forward, staff will request board approval to enter into loan agreements to implement the program.

Background

In 2016, Craft3 was selected by DEQ through a competitive public RFP to make the Oregon Clean Water Loan program available across the state. The targeted end users of the program are the owners of OSDS, whose systems have been determined by competent public or private professionals to have failed or exceeded their effective operating life, but lack the ability to pay for the repair or replacement. Craft3 provides an accessible and affordable loan product that serves OSDS owners that are unable to access capital from traditional financial institutions due to income or credit challenges.

Craft3 has executed more than \$800,000 in loans under the existing program and would like to expand the program. Given the potential to address water quality problems throughout the state, approached OWEB about partnering on an SRF loan application because only governmental entities are eligible to apply to the SRF program.

Application Process

Once the application was determined to be eligible, DEQ included it in the “Intended Use Plan,” which was posted for public comment from December 8, 2017 through January 7, 2018. Inclusion in the IUP does not commit DEQ to reserve funds for individual projects; it indicates a project’s readiness to proceed.

Next steps in the application process include environmental review, compliance with federal requirements, and developing agreements with DEQ and Craft3 that detail the responsibilities of each party.

Once the agreements are drafted, staff will come back to the board to request delegation of authority to enter into loan agreements with DEQ and Craft3.

Loan Mechanics

The proposed concept is for OWEB to borrow \$2 million from DEQ and enter into an agreement with Craft3 where Craft3 uses its existing loan processes to solicit and execute individual loans to septic system owners. Craft3 will submit to OWEB/DEQ for reimbursement of the loan amount and then collect and remit loan repayments to OWEB/DEQ.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Eric Williams at eric.williams@oregon.gov or 503-986-0047.



Oregon

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator
Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item M—Focused Investment Partnership Administrative Rules
January 30-31, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report updates the board on the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grants rulemaking process, and requests board approval on the proposed administrative rules.

II. Background

FIP grants are currently authorized under Division 5, OWEB Grant Program administrative rules, which is a broad rule division that encompasses all of OWEB grants. With FIP entering the second biennium of the program's existence, there are lessons learned that have informed administrative rules developed specifically for the program.

At the July 2017 meeting, the board authorized FIP rulemaking, including establishment of a rules advisory committee (RAC) to vet ideas and provide feedback in the development of rules. RAC members are either involved in a current FIP or have a good understanding of the program. The membership of the FIP Rulemaking RAC is found in Attachment A.

Between September and November, the RAC met on three occasions to discuss concepts to include in rule language and to provide feedback on draft rules. The board Focused Investments subcommittee reviewed the draft rules on October 18th.

III. Public Comment on Proposed FIP Rules

OWEB released draft rules for public comment on December 1, 2017. The public comment period was open from December 1 - December 31, 2017 with a public hearing in Salem on December 19th. A summary of the written comments received during the public comment period are provided in Attachment B. Staff reviewed the public comments, and made revisions to the proposed FIP rules, which are found in Attachment C. At its January meeting, the board may only receive public comment on the revisions to the proposed rules that have occurred since the close of the public comment period.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve the FIP grants rules found in Attachment C.

Attachments

- A. RAC Members
- B. Public Comments Received and Staff Response
- C. Proposed FIP Grants Rules

FIP Rules Advisory Committee Members

Dan Bell, Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Portland

Amy Charette, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Warm Springs

Liesel Coleman, Curry SWCD, Gold Beach

Justin Cullumbine, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, Ashland

Andrew Dutterer, OWEB Partnerships Coordinator, Salem

Bernadette Graham-Hudson, ODFW, Clackamas

Mark Grenbemer, OWEB-Southwest Oregon, Medford

Eric Hartstein, OWEB Senior Policy Coordinator, Salem

Ryan Houston, Upper Deschutes WSC, Bend

Denise Lofman, Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce, Astoria

Brad Nye, Deschutes Land Trust, Bend

Michael Pope, Greenbelt Land Trust, Corvallis

Courtney Shaff, OWEB Capacity Coordinator, Salem

Brenda Smith, High Desert Partnership, Burns

Jesse Steel, Grande Ronde Model Watershed, La Grande

Marty Suter-Goold, Harney SWCD, Hines

Mark Trenholm, Wild Salmon Center, Portland

Eric Williams, OWEB Grant Program Manager, Salem

Summary of Public Comments: Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Grants Rulemaking (Division 47)

| Rules: General Comments | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|-------------|
| Commenter(s) | Comments | Response | Rule Change |
| Craig Patterson | Concerned that FIP program does not adequately address social and economic concerns of rural communities. Urges a model of building restoration work camps modeled on the Civilian Conservation Corps, which completed public works projects during the 1930s in the U.S. | OWEB appreciates the social and economic concerns facing rural communities. However, the FIP program is not the appropriate venue for restoration work camps in rural communities. | No |
| Craig Patterson | Concerned that there is not an analysis of what constitutes the largest threats to ecosystems and communities. | OAR 695-047-0030 describes the process for the Board to determine ecological priorities for the FIP program. | No |

| Rule: 695-047-0020 | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|-------------|
| Sub-Section | Commenter(s) | Comments | Response | Rule Change |
| (6) | Johnson Creek Watershed Council | Concerned that the definition of “high performing partnerships” is inadequate and does not include performance based measures. | OWEB to modify 695-047-0020(6) as follows: “High-Performing Partnership” means a collaborating group of organizations with an existing governance structure that includes a formal decision making process <i>resulting in an effective performance history.</i> | Yes |

| Rule: 695-047-0060 | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|-------------|
| Sub-Section | Commenter(s) | Comments | Response | Rule Change |
| (1)(c) and (2)(c) | Johnson Creek Watershed Council | Concerned that partnerships are evaluated on the effectiveness of the partnership when some partnerships have been formed specifically to pursue OWEB funding, and asked if evaluation criteria should instead focus on the performance history of the individual organizations in the partnership. | It is the intent of the FIP program to recognize and award funding to existing high-performing partnerships that have formed to achieve ecological outcomes regardless of funding source. | No |

Summary of Public Comments: Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Grants Rulemaking (Division 47)

| Rule: 695-047-0090 | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|-------------|
| Sub-Section | Commenter(s) | Comments | Response | Rule Change |
| (1)(b) | Johnson Creek Watershed Council | Concerned that the maximum award of \$4 million per biennium for a FIP Implementation partnership is too high as the FIP process is still new/untested and the maximum award going to a partnership constitutes a significant portion of OWEB's Open Solicitation grants budget. | After a lengthy public comment process, the board determined the maximum amount of \$4 million for FIP Implementation partnerships at the July 2014 board meeting. | No |

| Rules: 695-047-0110 | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Sub-Section | Commenter(s) | Comments | Response | Rule Change |
| | Johnson Creek Watershed Council | Applauds the match requirements described in the rules. | OWEB appreciates the feedback. | No |

| Rules: 695-047-0140 | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|-------------|
| Sub-Section | Commenter(s) | Comments | Response | Rule Change |
| | Johnson Creek Watershed Council | Strongly opposes ability of the Executive Director to waive rules that are not required by statute. | This is a standard section in other OWEB administrative rules and allows OWEB to be flexible during implementation of the rules if needed to avoid unintended consequences. AS FIP is a new program, OWEB to modify OAR 695-047-0140 to include, <u><i>“Any waiver of the requirements of Division 47 will be reported to the Board on at least an annual basis.”</i></u> | Yes |

Division 47**Focused Investment Partnership Grants****695-047-0010****Purpose**

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

695-047-0020**Definitions**

- (1) "Focused Investment Partnership" means an OWEB investment that addresses a Board-identified priority of significance to the state, achieves clear and measurable ecological outcomes, uses integrated and results-oriented approaches as identified through a strategic action plan, and is implemented by a high-performing partnership.
- (2) "Focused Investment Partnership Implementation" means an initiative with an existing strategic action plan that is ready for implementation by a high-performing partnership for a period of up to six years and not exceeding \$12 million.
- (3) "Focused Investment Partnership Development" means an initiative with an existing partnership that is pursuing enhancement of that partnership, development of a strategic action plan and community engagement in support of the strategic action plan.
- (4) "Initiative" means the program that the partnership will pursue with Focused Investment Partnership funding for up to six years.
- (5) "Strategic Action Plan" is the long term conservation strategy of a partnership. Plans will include all components identified by OWEB as a part of the application process.
- (6) "High-Performing Partnership" means a collaborating group of organizations with an existing governance structure that includes a formal decision making process resulting in an effective performance history.
- (7) "Core Partners" are the partners identified in the proposal that will bring substantial capacity to a partnership and will lead the implementation effort.
- (8) "Measurable Ecological Outcomes" means quantifiable long-term ecological effects resulting from a series of conservation actions.
- (9) "Expert Review Team" means a team of designated personnel with statewide knowledge and interdisciplinary expertise drawn from agencies represented on the Board and other entities as appropriate to evaluate Focused Investment Partnership Implementation proposals and Development applications.

- (10) "Technical Review Team" means a team of designated personnel with regional knowledge and interdisciplinary expertise drawn from agencies represented on the Board and other entities to evaluate Focused Investment Partnership Implementation project-level grant applications.
- (11) "Work Plan" means the proposed actions of the partnership in each biennium of the Initiative. Focused Investment Partnership Implementation partnerships will submit to OWEB an updated work plan in advance of each new biennium.
- (12) "Grant Types" for Focused Investment Implementation Initiatives are Restoration (OAR 695-010), Stakeholder Engagement (OAR 695-015), Monitoring (OAR 695-025), Technical Assistance (OAR 695-030), Land Acquisition (OAR 695-045), and Water Lease and Transfer (OAR 695-046).

695-047-0030

Board-identified Priorities of Significance to the State

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

695-047-0040

Eligibility

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

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

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

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

695-047-0050

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

(1) Focused Investment Partnership *Implementation* Initiative proposals shall:

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

(2) Focused Investment Partnership *Development* Initiative applications shall:

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

695-047-0060

Evaluation Criteria

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

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

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

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

695-047-0070

Focused Investment Partnership Initiative Expert Review Process

The Board shall convene expert review teams to evaluate Focused Investment Partnership *Implementation* proposals and *Development* applications according to criteria described in OAR 695-047-0060. Expert review teams shall evaluate each application based on the information

provided and deliver recommendations to OWEB staff. The results of the expert review process, including evaluations, shall be provided to applicants and the Board.

695-047-0080

Focused Investment Partnership Initiative Funding Recommendation Process

(1) For Focused Investment Partnership *Implementation* Initiatives:

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

(b) The Board subcommittee may choose to interview core partners proposing an *Implementation* Initiative

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

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

695-047-0090

Board Funding Decision

(1) For Focused Investment Partnership *Implementation* Initiatives:

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

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

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

695-047-0100

Focused Investment Partnership *Implementation* Initiative Partnership Agreement

- (1) For Focused Investment Partnership *Implementation* Initiatives, a partnership agreement shall be executed between OWEB and core partners that shall stipulate the terms of the initiative.
- (2) The agreement shall include at a minimum: points of contact, purpose of initiative, scope of initiative, process for submitting project-level grant applications, review process, funding conditions, roles and responsibilities of signatories, and methodology to address any potential changes in composition of the core partnership.
- (3) Only organizations that are signatory to the partnership agreement are eligible to apply for project level grants.
- (4) Projects in the defined geographic area of the Initiative, and focused on the programs and actions identified in the Initiative's proposal, are ineligible for OWEB Restoration (OAR 695-010), Stakeholder Engagement (OAR 695-015), Monitoring (OAR 695-025), Technical Assistance (OAR 695-030), Land Acquisition (OAR 695-045), and Water Lease and Transfer (OAR 695-046) grants that are offered outside of the Focused Investment Partnership program.

695-047-0110

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

- (1) The core partners of a Focused Investment *Implementation* Initiative shall select projects to implement the Initiative.
- (2) Project applications shall be submitted on current forms on a schedule determined by the partnership and OWEB staff.
- (3) Project applications shall include a matching contribution from other non-Board program funds or in-kind services, notwithstanding OAR 695-005-0030(3).
- (4) Following consultation with the partnership about expertise that is relevant to the Implementation Initiative's focus, a technical review team shall be convened by OWEB. Technical review team members shall have appropriate expertise in the Focused Investment Partnership Initiative subject matter and geography.
- (5) The technical review team shall meet to evaluate project-level applications according to the project's compatibility with the Initiative's proposal and relevant evaluation criteria established in OAR Chapter 695. Representatives of the partnership shall be provided an opportunity to meet with the technical review team during the project evaluation to provide context for proposed projects.

(6) OWEB staff shall provide the technical review team evaluations to the applicant. Applicants and staff shall address review team comments through an amendment or other agreed upon process.

(7) Prior to disbursement of Board funds, the Grantee must provide proof that the matching contribution has been secured. Notwithstanding 695-005-0060(2) and (8), the 25% match requirement will be reported at the Initiative-level for the biennium.

695-047-0120

Distribution of Funds

(1) Focused Investment Partnership *Development* Initiative funds shall be distributed through grant agreements executed in accordance with OAR 695-005-0050 and 695-005-0060.

(2) Focused Investment Partnership *Implementation* Initiative funds shall be distributed through project-level grant agreements through a process described in the partnership agreement described in OAR 695-047-0090.

695-047-0130

Reporting

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

(2) Focused Investment Partnership *Implementation* Initiatives shall report to OWEB staff through a collaboratively established process and timeline.

(3) Reporting for project-level grants shall be determined in each project grant agreement.

(4) At the end of each biennium, the Focused Investment *Implementation* Initiative partnerships shall report the following to the Board:

(a) Demonstrated 25% secured match for the Initiative for the biennium plus any additional investments generated by the Initiative.

(b) Initiative progress for the biennium

(c) Updated work plan and budget proposed for the next biennium

(d) Any proposed changes to the geography, scope, or partners of the Initiative.

695-047-0140

Waiver and Periodic Review of Rules

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



Oregon

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
Nellie McAdams, Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item N – Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
January 20-31, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Decision

The OWEB Board will be presented with an update on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage (OAH) Commission process to date, then will be asked to vote on a full slate of OAH Commissioners.

II. Background

House Bill 3249 established the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP), and was signed into law with an effective date of August 15, 2017 (see Attachment A). Since that time, OWEB has hired a program coordinator, conducted a solicitation for OAH Commission applicants, and assisted other boards and agencies responsible for commission recommendations to process applications. The OAHP coordinator is also researching topics relevant to OAHP rules, and has begun planning the logistics for commission meetings.

III. Oregon Agricultural Heritage (OAH) Commission Application Process

OWEB initiated a call for commission applications on September 26 and closed the application period on October 25. OWEB received twenty-five applications. Two applicants subsequently withdrew their applications.

Four state boards are tasked by the statute with recommending specified positions to the OWEB Board: the Board of Agriculture, Land Conservation and Development Commission, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, and OWEB's Board. In addition, the director of OSU Extension Service recommends one commission member.

For appointments made directly by OWEB's board, OWEB staff have offered recommendations. OWEB staff also worked with staff at the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to prepare their board or commission for a vote at their fall meetings. The board and commissions were informed that they should recommend one person per OAH Commission position, and that no commission applicant could be recommended for multiple roles. OWEB staff presented a synopsis of the OAHP and

OAH Commission before the votes of the Board of Agriculture and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission.

IV. OAH Commission Appointments

The OWEB Board is asked to vote on a full slate of recommended commissioners (see Attachment B). The initial terms of the founding commission members vary in length from one to four years in order to stagger membership. Thereafter, commission terms will last four years. Commissioners may serve up to two consecutive terms.

V. Rule Making Timeline

The OAH Commission is tasked by the statute to assist the board in developing rules for the program. It will convene for approximately eight meetings in 2018 between February and late August. These meetings will likely all be held in Prineville. Their first meeting will be February 1, and meeting dates, locations, and materials will be posted on OWEB's Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program webpage. These commission meetings will be open to the public, and oral and written public comment will be taken at each meeting.

The board will be updated on the status of OAHP rules at the April and June meetings, and a final draft of the rules will be provided to the board to consider for adoption at the October 2018 meeting.

VI. Recommendation

OWEB staff recommend that the Board vote to appoint the full slate of Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission members, as described in Attachment B. This includes the approval of the length of the first terms of the farmer/rancher representatives and fish and wildlife representatives.

Attachments

- A. Sections of HB 3249 relevant to the appointment and substantive responsibilities of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage (OAH) Commission (Sections 7, 10, and 12)
- B. Recommended OAH Commissioners
- C. Full List of OAH Commission Applications
- D. Proposed Schedule for OAHP Rule Making

(8) An organization that receives a grant from the board for a working land conservation covenant or working land conservation easement, or an owner of working land that enters into a working land conservation covenant or grants a working land conservation easement, may receive cash contributions, other financial assistance, in-kind services or other forms of investment from any public or private sources for purposes of purchasing, implementing, carrying out or monitoring of the covenant or easement.

SECTION 7. (1) The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission is established, consisting of 12 members appointed by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. The board shall appoint one board member to serve on an ex officio basis as a nonvoting member of the commission. The board shall appoint 11 voting members from among persons recommended as provided in subsection (2) of this section.

(2)(a) Four members shall be persons recommended by the State Board of Agriculture who are actively engaged in farming or ranching. The members must represent diverse types of agricultural commodities and be from geographically diverse areas of this state.

(b) One member shall be recommended by the Director of the Oregon State University Extension Service.

(c) Two members shall be persons recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission who have expertise regarding fish and wildlife habitat.

(d) One member shall be a person recommended by the State Board of Agriculture who has expertise in agricultural water quality.

(e) One member shall be a person recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission who has expertise in conservation easements and similar land transfers.

(f) One member shall be a person selected by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board who is a representative of natural resource value interests.

(g) One member shall be a person selected by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board who is a representative of Indian tribal interests.

(3) The term of office of each voting member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission is four years, but the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board may remove a member if requested by the authority that recommended the member. Before the term of a member expires, the authority that recommended the member shall make recommendations to the board regarding the appointment of a successor. An authority may recommend the reappointment of a member, but a member may not serve more than two consecutive terms. If there is a vacancy for any cause, the authority that recommended the vacating member shall make recommendations to the board regarding the appointment of a successor to serve for the unexpired term.

SECTION 8. (1) The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission shall select one of its voting members as chairperson and another voting member as vice chairperson, for terms and with duties and powers necessary for the performance of the functions of the offices as the commission determines.

(2) A majority of the voting members of the commission constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

(3) The commission shall meet at least once every 12 months at a time and place determined by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. The commission also may meet at other times and places specified by the call of the chairperson or of a majority of the voting members of the commission.

(4) Members of the commission are not entitled to compensation but, at the discretion of the board, may be reimbursed from funds available in the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund for actual and necessary travel and other expenses incurred by the members in the performance of official duties in the manner and amount provided in ORS 292.495.

(5) The board shall provide staff support for the work of the commission.

SECTION 9. (1) In accordance with applicable provisions of ORS chapter 183, the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission may adopt rules necessary for the administration of the laws that the commission is charged with administering.

(2) The commission may establish any advisory or technical committee the commission considers necessary to aid and advise the commission in the performance of its functions. The committees may be continuing or temporary committees. The commission shall determine the representation, membership, terms and organization of the committees and shall appoint the members of the committees. The commission chairperson shall be a nonvoting member of each committee.

(3) Members of advisory or technical committees established by the commission are not entitled to compensation but, at the discretion of the commission and with the consent of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, may be reimbursed from funds available to the board for actual and necessary travel and other expenses incurred by the members in the performance of official duties in the manner and amount provided in ORS 292.495.

SECTION 10. (1) The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission shall:

(a) Assist the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board with the development of rules for the administration of programs under sections 1 to 10 of this 2017 Act;

(b) Adopt rules establishing three or more permissible terms of years, that are not less than 20 or more than 50 years, for working land conservation covenants formed under section 5 of this 2017 Act;

(c) Recommend policies and priorities for use by the board in evaluating the farm or ranch values, and the fish or wildlife habitat, water quality or other natural resource values, on working land described in a grant application filed under section 4 or 5 of this 2017 Act;

(d) Review and consider the recommendations of technical committees appointed under section 6 of this 2017 Act;

(e) Consult with the board concerning grant applications;

(f) Provide conservation management plan, working land conservation covenant and working land conservation easement funding recommendations to the board based on the availability of funding from the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund; and

(g) Provide funding recommendations to the Legislative Assembly, or recommendations for grant funding to the board, to provide training and support to owners of working land, or persons advising owners of working land, regarding succession planning for the lands.

(2) The commission's recommendations for funding under subsection (1)(g) of this section may include recommendations for funding succession planning programs through the Oregon State University Extension Service only if the university has presented the commission with a program proposal for review. If a commission recommendation for funding succession planning programs through the university extension service is adopted, the university shall provide the commission with an annual report regarding each program.

SECTION 11. (1) As used in this section "working land" has the meaning given that term in section 1 of this 2017 Act.

(2) The Legislative Policy and Research Director, in consultation with the Department of Revenue and the State Department of Agriculture, shall conduct a study examining financial incentives, incremental tax reduction and tax elimination with regard to land transfer and succession planning for working land. The study must include, but need not be limited to, the identification of potential tax incentives and financial management tools that may improve the likelihood for land transfer and succession planning that supports the continued use of working land for agricultural operations while maintaining or enhancing fish or wildlife habitat, improving water quality or supporting other natural resource values of the land.

(3) In conducting the study, the director shall consult with state agencies and members of the public that have an interest in policy considerations related to the identification and proposal of potential tax incentives and financial management tools.

(4) The director shall complete the study and report findings and any recommendations to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to natural resources, in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, no later than September 15, 2018.

SECTION 12. Notwithstanding the term of office specified by section 7 of this 2017 Act, of the members first appointed to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission:

(1) One of the members recommended by the State Board of Agriculture who is actively engaged in farming or ranching shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2019.

(2) One of the members recommended by the State Board of Agriculture who is actively engaged in farming or ranching shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2020.

(3) One of the members recommended by the State Board of Agriculture who is actively engaged in farming or ranching shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2021.

(4) One of the members recommended by the State Board of Agriculture who is actively engaged in farming or ranching shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2022.

(5) One of the members recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2019.

(6) One of the members recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2021.

(7) The member recommended by the Director of the Oregon State University Extension Service shall serve a term ending January 1, 2020.

(8) The member selected by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board who is a representative of natural resource value interests shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2020.

(9) The member recommended by the State Board of Agriculture who has expertise in agricultural water quality shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2021.

(10) The member recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2022.

(11) The member selected by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board who is a representative of Indian tribal interests shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2022.

SECTION 13. Notwithstanding section 3 of this 2017 Act, the amounts paid from the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund for the administrative expenses of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the reimbursements and staff support expenses of activities associated with the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission incurred on or before June 30, 2019, may exceed 12 percent of the moneys credited to the fund during the biennium ending June 30, 2019.

SECTION 14. Sections 1 to 10 of this 2017 Act apply to agreements and interests in land that:

(1) Are created on or after January 1, 2018; or

(2) Are the subject of an application for funding from the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund.

SECTION 15. Sections 1 to 10 and 12 of this 2017 Act become operative January 1, 2018.

SECTION 16. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$190,000 which may be expended for carrying out sections 1 to 10 of this 2017 Act.

SECTION 17. This 2017 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2017 Act takes effect July 1, 2017.

OWEB Board Meeting, January 2018
 Agenda Item N – Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
 Recommended OAH Commissioners

| Name | Residence City/Town | Interest Represented | Recommending Body | Length of First Term |
|----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Chad Allen | Tillamook | Farm/ranch | Board of Agriculture | 2-year |
| Ken Bailey | The Dalles | Farm/ranch | Board of Agriculture | 1-year |
| Doug Krahmer | St. Paul | Farm/ranch | Board of Agriculture | 4-year |
| Woody Wolfe | Wallowa | Farm/ranch | Board of Agriculture | 3-year |
| Dr. Sam Angima | Corvallis | OSU Extension | OSU Extension | 2-years |
| Mary Wahl | Portland | Fish & Wildlife | Fish & Wildlife Comm. | 1-year |
| Bruce Taylor | Portland | Fish & Wildlife | Fish & Wildlife Comm. | 3-year |
| Lois Loop | Salem | Agricultural Water Quality | Board of Agriculture | 3-years |
| Derek Johnson | Portland | Easements | Land Conservation & Development Comm. | 4-years |
| Mark Bennett | Unity | Natural Resources | OWEB Board | 2-years |
| Nathan Jackson | Myrtle Creek | Indian tribal | OWEB Board | 4-years |
| Will Neuhauser | Yamhill | <i>Ex officio</i> , non- voting | OWEB Board | Unspecified* |

The terms of the founding Commission members vary in length from one to four years in order to stagger membership. Thereafter, Commission terms will last four years. Commissioners may serve up to two consecutive terms.

* The *Ex officio*, non-voting Commission member must be an active member of OWEB's board. The OWEB Board may appoint a new Commissioner in this role at its discretion, and must appoint a new Commissioner when the position becomes vacant because the person no longer serves on OWEB's Board.

OWEB Board Meeting, January 2018
Agenda Item N – Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
Applicants to OAH Commission

Applicants to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission

I. Board of Agriculture

A. Actively engaged in farming and ranching

Chad Allen: Dairy Farmer – Tillamook (*)

Ken Bailey: Orchard Fruit Farmer – The Dalles (*)

Doug Krahmer: Blueberry Farmer – St. Paul (*)

Woody Wolfe: Rancher and Farmer - Wallowa (*)

Mark Bennett: Rancher – Unity (**)

Nathan Jackson: Rancher – Myrtle Creek (**)

Lois Loop: Retired FSA – Salem (**)

Randy Bergman: Dairy and Farming – Clatskanie

Jeanne Carver: Rancher – Maupin

Pat Holliday: Rancher – John Day

Peter Kenagy: Grain, Seed, and Vegetable Farmer – Albany

Jennie London: Vegetable Farmer – Portland

Matthew Smith: Rancher – Bend

B. Agricultural Water Quality

Lois Loop: Retired FSA - Salem (*)

Ken Bailey: Orchard Fruit Farmer – The Dalles (**)

Kenneth Bierly: Retired OWEB – Salem

Peter Kenagy: Grain, Seed, and Vegetable Farmer – Albany

II. Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

A. Expertise regarding fish and wildlife habitat

Bruce Taylor: Pacific Birds / Intermountain West Joint Venture – Portland (*)

Mary Wahl: Retired Portland Watershed Services – Portland (*)

Kenneth Bierly: Retired OWEB – Salem

Peter Kenagy: Grain, Seed, and Vegetable Farmer – Albany

Matthew Smith: Rancher – Bend

Tom Wolf: Retired Trout Unlimited – Hillsboro

OWEB Board Meeting, January 2018
Agenda Item N – Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
Applicants to OAH Commission

III. Land Conservation and Development Commission

A. Expertise in conservation easements and similar land transfers

Derek Johnson: The Nature Conservancy – Portland (*)

Mark Bennett: Rancher and Baker County Commissioner – Unity (**)

Woody Wolfe: Rancher and Farmer – Wallowa (**)

Kenneth Bierly: Retired OWEB – Salem

Katherine Daniels: Retired, DLCD – Salem

IV. Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's Board

A. Representative of natural resource value interests

Mark Bennett: Rancher and Baker County Commissioner – Unity (*)

Ken Bailey: Orchard Fruit Farmer – The Dalles (**)

Lois Loop: Retired FSA – Salem (**)

Jim Fox: Consultant – Bend (***)

Kenneth Bierly: Retired OWEB – Salem

Jeanne Carver: Rancher – Maupin

Mike Gerel: Sustainable Northwest – Portland

Peter Kenagy: Grain, Seed, and Vegetable Farmer – Albany

B. Representative of Indian tribal interests

Nathan Jackson: Rancher, member of Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians – Myrtle Creek (*)

Amy Charette: Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs – John Day

Peter Kenagy: Grain, Seed, and Vegetable Farmer – Albany

Jennie London: Vegetable Farmer – Portland

Stan van de Wetering: Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians – Siletz

*Recommended in this category

**Recommended in another category

***Will be contracting with OWEB to provide OAH services

OWEB Board Meeting, January 2018
 Agenda Item N – Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
 Proposed Schedule for OAHP Rule Making

| Rulemaking Action | Dates/Deadlines |
|--|---|
| OWEB Board authorization for rulemaking | October 2017 - DONE |
| Develop rule headers/concepts | November – December 2017 - DONE |
| OWEB Board update and vote on Commissioners | January 31, 2018 |
| Commission Meeting #1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OAHP 101 • Rule headers • Succession planning rulemaking | Thursday, February 1, 2018 |
| Commission Meeting #2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review succession planning rules • Conservation Management Plan rulemaking | Thursday, February 22, 2018 |
| Commission Meeting #3: CMP rules | Thursday, March 8, 2018 |
| Commission Meeting #4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Management Plan rulemaking • Easement/Covenant rulemaking | Thursday, April 5, 2018 |
| Comm. Meeting #5: Easement/covenant rulemaking | Thursday, April 26, 2018 |
| Commission Meeting #6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easement/Covenant rulemaking • Technical Assistance rulemaking • Procedural rulemaking | Wednesday, May 23, 2018 afternoon Thursday, May 24, 2018 all day |
| Provide draft rules to DOJ for feedback | Early June, 2018 |
| Draft Statement Need & Fiscal/ Economic Impact | Early June, 2018 |
| Draft Gov Delivery, Secretary of State notice, website | Early June, 2018 |
| Exec. Team review draft rules after DOJ feedback | Mid-June, 2018 |
| Notice filed with Secretary of State | June 20, 2018 |
| Board Update | June 25, 2018 |
| Public comment notice posted online and in Sec. of State bulletin; sent to Gov Delivery and legislators | July 1, 2018 |
| Public comment period; hearings around the state | July 1 – July 31, 2018 |
| Exec. Team review and revise draft rules based on public comment | Early August, 2018 |
| Commission Meeting #7: Review public comment | Early August, 2018 |
| DOJ review any significant changes to rules | Mid-August, 2018 |
| Commission Meeting #8: Final draft of rules | Late August, 2018 |
| Send rules to Board to review | September 1, 2018 |
| Board vote on rules | October 2018 |
| Board submit final rules to Secretary of State | October/November 2018 |



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item O – Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed – Final Summary Report
January 30-31, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff and partners from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and Oregon State University (OSU) will present the results of the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) final summary report. This presentation will summarize the key findings from monitoring, lessons learned from the combined restoration and monitoring efforts in the Middle Fork John Day River, and future monitoring needs of the IMW.

II. Background

The IMW was designed to evaluate the implementation of watershed restoration projects over a large geography and extended period of time to describe the collective benefits provided to salmon and steelhead populations, habitat, and water quality. Funders include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, via the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), and OWEB. Partners in the IMW have conducted work in a coordinated fashion to evaluate and document watershed restoration actions and ecological conditions since 2008.

In 2008, OWEB began administering PSMFC funding for entities conducting monitoring in the IMW. OWEB was a key convener of the IMW in coordination with ODFW, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon, North Fork John Day Watershed Council, OSU, 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. Since 2014 OWEB has worked with partners to complete the data analysis, synthesis and interpretation in the final summary report.

III. IMW Final Summary Report

The final report was completed in December 2017 and represents nearly a decade of work by numerous agencies, organizations, and individuals conducting restoration, research, and monitoring activities in the Upper Middle Fork John Day River. Each

principal investigator and their co-authors wrote a report, which represents the research questions, methods and findings of their individual research and monitoring. The reports were compiled, along with pertinent background information, into the final summary report. The report's Executive Summary, which provides a brief overview of the IMW and describes key findings and recommendations, can be found in Attachment A to this staff report. The report has been submitted to NOAA and PSMFC.

IV. Next Steps

The IMW partners will convene in spring of 2018 to reflect on the recommendations from the report, plan opportunities for sharing findings with interested stakeholders (e.g., the John Day Partnership for restoration lessons learned, local economic development entities for the socio-economic assessment) and discuss priorities for future work. Regionally, NOAA, PSMFC, and the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Program are working with other IMWs from around the region to summarize overarching findings for distribution to policymakers, resource managers, and restoration practitioners around the region, evaluate results of the IMWs, and identify refinements needed and priorities for future investment in IMWs. OWEB staff will continue to engage in these parallel processes to track potential areas of overlapping interest for future programmatic effectiveness monitoring.

V. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachments

- A. IMW Final Summary Report – Executive Summary

Middle Fork John Day River IMW Final Summary Report Executive Summary

Introduction

In the Middle Fork John Day River (MFJDR) basin in Oregon, nearly two centuries of land management practices have contributed to the decline of federally threatened Mid-Columbia summer steelhead *Oncorhynchus mykiss* and non-listed spring Chinook Salmon *O. tshawytscha*. Beaver trapping, road building, clear-cut logging, fire suppression, channel rerouting, floodplain/wetland drainage, grazing, and mining have all impacted the MFJDR through time. While the most damaging of these practices have been curtailed, their harmful legacies remain, including degraded floodplain function and connectivity, reduced habitat quantity and diversity, increased water temperature, and altered hydrology and sediment routing. These key limiting factors have been identified as negatively impacting steelhead and salmon recovery in the MFJDR (CBMRCD 2005; Carmichael and Taylor 2010). Habitat restoration is a primary strategy to address the limiting factors in Columbia Basin tributaries that hinder salmonid recovery in the Pacific Northwest (PNW), including the MFJDR.



Photo 1. Steelhead. *Courtesy of ODFW.*

Investments in salmonid habitat restoration oftentimes do not include effectiveness monitoring (Roni et al. 2002; Roni P. ed. 2005, Bernhardt et al. 2005), leaving project planners to rely upon anecdotal evidence to infer benefits to fish populations. To address this problem, the Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) program was created to monitor fish population responses to restoration actions, provide evidence of restoration effectiveness, and better understand the relationships between fish and habitat. In 2008, the MFJDR joined the IMW program, seeking to study how ongoing stream restoration actions were affecting salmonid populations, and to guide future restoration efforts.

The Middle Fork IMW (MFIMW) is coordinated by a subset of organizations that originally participated in the Upper Middle Fork John Day Working Group (UMFWG). These participants convened in April of 2007 to develop a monitoring approach. In 2008, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), in coordination with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) began funding the MFIMW.

The goals of the MFIMW are to 1) evaluate the overall benefit of restoration actions to summer steelhead and spring Chinook Salmon in the Upper MFJDR, and 2) understand how specific restoration actions impact instream habitat, temperature, and salmonid metrics at the watershed, sub-watershed, and reach scales.

Over 100 active and passive restoration projects of varying size and scope were implemented over the 10-year period of the MFIMW by organizations that originally participated in the UMFWG. A restoration inventory shows 30 restoration projects implemented along the mainstem MFJDR and 70 projects in the tributaries. This habitat restoration work targets the key limiting factors described above. Many of the restoration projects were multi-faceted, designed simultaneously to address multiple limiting factors, with the intent of maximizing ecosystem 'returns' from these restoration investments.



Photo 2. Setting up weather station. *Courtesy of NFJDC.*

Key Findings

The MFIMW evaluated the effects of restoration actions on native steelhead and Chinook populations and habitat throughout the Upper MFJDR watershed. A range of parameters were monitored, including but not limited to fish populations, physical instream habitat, and water temperature. Key findings include:

- Evidence strongly indicates that elevated stream temperature remains the most significant limiting factor for steelhead and Chinook populations, overriding the benefits to salmonids from observed instream habitat improvements from restoration actions in the MFJDR.
- Without the simultaneous and effective mitigation of high stream temperatures, restoration actions that targeted quantity and quality of instream habitat were insufficient to generate positive fisheries metric responses at all scales monitored.
- High stream temperatures, and their negative effects on fisheries responses, are the direct result of a warming climate, reduced snow pack, and severely modified riparian habitats. While riparian restoration efforts have been and are being implemented, habitat improvements resulting from these are slow to progress, due to insufficient extent of plantings throughout the watershed and the unexpected magnitude of ungulate browsing.

- Riparian vegetation restoration has great potential to address stream temperature concerns, but riparian maturation takes a great deal of time and careful stewardship to ensure success.
- River restoration is a long-term investment. Restoration actions aimed at improving watershed function, such as riparian restoration and instream habitat improvement, take decades to fully develop and produce detectable improvements in salmonid productivity.
- Various habitat and population changes expected from restoration actions have different response times, from short (a few years) to long (decades), and monitoring should be scaled accordingly.
- During the planning process, it is important to delineate expected response timing and magnitudes from restoration actions to ensure that monitoring goals are realistic and can be achieved within a reasonable time frame.
- Life cycle modeling can aid in predicting the expected magnitudes and timing of fisheries response variables from restoration, and help to prioritize the restoration actions that maximize restoration effect on population metrics.

Response of Salmonid Populations to Restoration Actions

We monitored the response of summer steelhead and Chinook Salmon to restoration actions in the MFJDR. Our hypothesis, based on previous MFJDR observations, was that freshwater salmonid productivity will respond positively to increased quality and quantity of habitat. However, results at the watershed scale indicate that to date, freshwater productivity of salmonid populations has not increased. Evidence indicates that temperature and discharge, rather than restoration actions, were the dominant influences on juvenile salmonid responses in the MFJDR watershed. Salmonid growth was influenced by both temperature and discharge, while low discharge was the dominant factor limiting salmonid survival. Furthermore, we found through distribution surveys that juvenile Chinook habitat quantity was significantly limited by high summer water temperatures. Although our habitat surveys indicate that factors limiting freshwater production were improved through restoration actions in the MFIMW, the most significant limiting factor, stream temperature, has not yet been adequately addressed. Therefore, despite gains made in habitat quality, suitable stream temperatures and habitat quantity remained limited, suppressing significant increases in watershed-scale salmonid productivity.

While improvements to habitat quality were also observed in our Camp Creek surveys, they were not sufficient to create concurrent observable increases in freshwater productivity. Instead, as in the watershed-scale finding, stream discharge and temperature were the most significant influences on juvenile steelhead survival and productivity. In Camp Creek, we observed increased steelhead density during the early post-restoration

period, but higher discharges during that period were most likely responsible, not habitat improvement. Additionally, evidence indicates that elevated stream temperatures in Camp Creek continued to suppress growth and productivity in the post-restoration period, and very likely negated positive fisheries responses to observed habitat quality improvements.

Despite significant habitat quality improvements in MFJDR and Camp Creek, elevated stream temperatures continue to limit the production of salmonid juveniles by limiting habitat quantity and decreasing juvenile salmonid growth and survival. MFIMW life cycle modeling efforts support this finding, concluding that water temperature remains the primary limiting factor in the MFJDR system. The slow progress and limited extent of riparian restoration and lack of reductions in temperature limited freshwater responses throughout the MFJDR watershed. Finally, given the limited time for habitat recovery from active restoration, and the lag time associated with population-scale fish responses, limited fish responses to the recent restoration actions of the MFJDR are reasonable.

Response of Instream Habitat to Restoration Actions

The majority of MFIMW restoration actions were designed to improve instream habitat quality and quantity. These include pool creation and pool modification, floodplain reconnection, fish cover enhancements, increased sinuosity, channel narrowing, and habitat diversification. Therefore, geomorphic and in-stream habitat monitoring was a primary component of the MFIMW, focusing on three spatial scales: project, reach, and watershed level.

We estimated instream habitat trends at the watershed scale by measuring changes in individual stream habitat metrics at established PacFish/InFish Biological Opinion (PIBO) sampling sites in Camp Creek and the mainstem MFJDR. This study demonstrated that stream restoration and land management efforts had a measurable effect on habitat quality at the watershed scale. Overall habitat index improved, large woody debris increased in frequency, and the percentage of undercut banks increased in Camp Creek and the MFJDR. However, percent fines in pools increased in Camp Creek and the MFJDR. These results indicate that most individual aspects of habitat condition in the MFIMW are stable or improving. While habitat conditions in Camp Creek are improving, it remains of poorer quality than reference conditions in the Blue Mountains and Upper Columbia Basin. This comparison highlights the need for additional restoration actions and time for riparian restoration to deliver expected results.

In addition to monitoring broad habitat changes at the watershed scale, finer-scale habitat changes at the reach and individual restoration project scales were also studied. Channel geomorphology, sinuosity, pool depth, bed material, and fish cover were monitored for seven years at restoration and control reaches. Changes to channel morphology at

individual log structure treatments were also monitored. The results show that while restoration reaches did not narrow and deepen or become more sinuous, active restoration measures did produce a significant increase in pool depth, mainly due to deep pools created during the restoration projects. Both treatment and control reaches also experienced a significant decrease in the percentage of embedded gravels, indicating that gravels are becoming more porous and that accumulation of fine sediment in the gravel bed is not a problem. These results indicate that the MFJDR channel is relatively stable and in dynamic equilibrium, and not susceptible to significant net erosion or deposition, even during the 2011 flood, the largest flood ever recorded on the MFJDR.

Interestingly, stream reaches that had experienced passive restoration (i.e., removal of livestock grazing) showed large increases in torrent sedge, a native species, within the active channel. These plants had important influences on channel morphology and habitat by increasing fish cover, creating lateral movement of the channel, and increasing channel complexity. These results suggest that long-term passive restoration is making important contributions to improving geomorphic and fish habitat conditions.

In conclusion, significant overall habitat improvements attributed to watershed-scale land management decisions and stream restoration actions were observed throughout the MFIMW as evidenced by our PIBO surveys. In the MFJDR, log structures did not significantly alter channel morphology. However, cattle exclusion in the MFJDR did successfully improve habitat and channel complexity, as well as fish cover, via increases in sedge vegetation.

Response of Riparian Habitat to Restoration Actions

Riparian planting has become a popular restoration strategy given its ability to provide shade to reduce stream temperatures and contribute large wood to improve instream habitat. Monitoring is important to inform the adaptive management process of riparian restoration, but effectiveness evaluation of riparian planting is often lacking. In the MFIMW, field monitoring was employed to gage the success of various riparian restoration scenarios and theoretical models were utilized to examine the impacts of these scenarios on future habitat quality.

We studied the effects of wild ungulate browsing on native woody riparian plantings along the MFJDR. To restore shade to highly modified riparian habitats, thousands of seedlings were planted on the Oxbow and Forrest Conservation Areas in 2006. These areas were already fenced to exclude cattle, but not wild ungulates. Results showed that browsing by deer and elk suppressed the growth of most planted hardwoods and concluded that browsing pressure from ungulates severely limits the restoration of native riparian forests. This limitation must be considered by restoration practitioners during project planning and design phases.

Ecological modeling can complement riparian field studies by using field measurements to predict where restoration plantings are most effective and, thus, inform the prioritization of riparian restoration actions across large landscapes. We modeled historical, current, and future scenarios of riparian plant communities and their effects on salmonid habitat in the upper MFJDR using state and transition models. Alternative management strategies for passive versus active riparian restoration were examined. Simulation results indicate that recovery toward historic conditions occurs under both passive and active strategies, though recovery was slower under passive restoration alone. Simulations also suggested that streams would not fully recover to the historical condition within 50 years (the duration of the modeled simulations), even in the most aggressive active restoration scenario we examined. These results indicate that river restoration investments, particularly those with a long lag time such as riparian restoration, need to be planned and evaluated over several decades. It also suggests that the slow recovery time of riparian restoration may undermine the ability to detect positive fisheries responses from restoration actions within a reasonable time frame, especially in areas where high temperatures are a primary limiting factor, such as in the MFJDR watershed.

Response of MFIMW Stream Temperatures to Restoration Actions

Elevated stream temperature is clearly implicated in salmonid population declines in the MFJDR, and is considered to be the primary limiting factor for salmonids in this system. Some of the restoration projects implemented throughout the MFIMW study area were designed specifically to cool the river, but most were primarily directed to other objectives (e.g., increased habitat, access to low-velocity water during floods). We monitored temperature at both coarse (watershed, subwatershed) and fine (individual project, reach-level) spatial and temporal scales. Field-validated implementations of the physically-based model HeatSource were applied to predict stream temperature changes under various climate and restoration scenarios. Results showed that although some projects did succeed at lowering temperatures in localized areas, others were predicted to increase temperatures, and overall, the elevated summer temperatures due to a lack of riparian shade was not significantly impacted during the study period, with the exception of the Oxbow consolidation of two channels into one.

We used standard temperature loggers to assess temperature trends at the MFJDR watershed scale for over a decade. Between 2005 and 2016, 122 water temperature loggers were deployed in the mainstem MFJDR and 26 of its tributaries. Summer water temperatures, reported as maximum 7-day average daily maximums (7DADMs) were above the EPA recommended 18°C thermal threshold for cold-water salmonids for all locations and all years. Riparian restoration activities in the MFJDR designed to cool water temperatures are relatively recent, including many within the last 5-7 years.

Additionally, these plantings were implemented in a relatively small proportion of the watershed. It was found that these temporal and spatial recovery scales were insufficient to affect a watershed-level change in temperature values.

In addition to the watershed-scale temperature monitoring, we implemented distributed temperature sensing (DTS) to measure stream temperatures at high temporal (minutes) and spatial (0.5 m) resolutions. These data were utilized to calibrate predictive models and investigate the effects of reach-scale restoration projects on stream temperatures.

Floodplain reconnection is an important restoration objective. We investigated whether a MFJDR floodplain reconnection project could mitigate late-summer low flows and elevated stream temperatures through increased mainstem flow by delivery of water stored in the floodplain, from high winter flows, in the summer. This restoration action was shown to be ineffective in the mitigation of summer water temperatures. It should be emphasized, however, that the floodplain reconnection has benefits to salmonid communities during high flow periods.

Tributary inputs of cool water were shown to be critical components of creating thermal conditions suitable to salmonids. We found that the major cooling sources for the mainstem were from tributary contributions, and not from direct entry of groundwater. However, consistent with summer flows being generated from stored groundwater, it was also found that groundwater did provide significant cooling to the MFJD tributaries, which deliver this cool water to the mainstem. At tributary confluences colder contributions to the mainstem provided large areas of thermal refugia.

The mainstem MFJDR experiences very high summer stream temperatures and we investigated the drivers that caused these elevated temperature levels. While tributaries are the primary cooling mechanism to the mainstem MFJDR, our modeling efforts employing HeatSource found that solar radiation is the primary driver of temperature gain along the mainstem MFJDR. The relationship is linear, making it easy to predict the impact of restoration efforts on temperature by simply comparing the pre- and post-restoration surface area of the stream at low-flow. Therefore, wider channels with larger surface (wetted) areas are more susceptible to temperature increases than narrower, deeper channels.

Monitoring of the Phase 2 Oxbow Tailings Project, which decreased channel surface area, confirmed the HeatSource modeling projections. Monitoring of Phase 2 Oxbow Tailings Project showed a decrease in mainstem mean temperature of over 0.6°C (1°F). On the other hand, the Oxbow Tailings Project Phases 3-5 introduced meander bends to an artificially straightened channel and resulted in reduced channel velocities and an increase in stream channel surface area. HeatSource model projections indicated that these meander bend additions most likely caused

increased solar heat inputs into this channel section and increased temperatures (Hall, 2015). Model results considering the impact of shade from stream-bank vegetation found modest and very slow temperature responses, with riparian restoration unlikely to provide significant thermal cooling within a decade on rivers the size of the MFJDR. These results suggest that re-meandering channels, without severe limitation of the wetted area during summer low-flow, may cause temperature increases in the absence of tall riparian vegetation. The results suggest all restoration efforts be assessed for their impact of low-flow stream surface area as a primary predictor of the expected impact on critical stream temperature.

Bridge Creek and the influence of Bates Pond provided an illustrative example of the interplay of temperature, cool water tributary influence to the MFJDR, surface area exposure to solar radiation, and fish habitat use.



Photo 3. Bates Pond fish ladder.
Courtesy of ODFW.

Bridge Creek flows into Bates Pond, a man-made millpond; Bates Pond then outflows into lower Bridge Creek, which empties into the MFJDR soon after. The increased surface water area of Bates Pond elevates water temperature outflow to the extent that lower Bridge Creek is warmer than the MFJDR during much of the summer. This restricts the potential of Bridge Creek to act as thermal refugia both downstream and above Bates Pond since fish will not ascend the fish ladder at the elevated temperatures. If the thermal condition of Bridge Creek within the State Park boundary, including Bates Pond, were improved to replicate temperatures upstream of the park, more steelhead and salmon would be able to utilize Bridge Creek as cool water refugia during periods of heat stress.

Changing environmental and climatic conditions underscore the need to understand the mechanistic linkages between climate, habitat, and fish. For example, increases in air temperature and decreases in stream discharge due to climate change have the potential to increase future stream temperatures. We combined HeatSource and riparian state-and-transition models to predict the interactive effects of climate changes and riparian vegetation to stream temperatures in the upper MFJDR. Simulations suggest a wide range of possible future thermal regimes for the MFJDR. Future 7DADM stream temperatures ranged from 4°C warmer to 8°C colder than current conditions, depending on the extent of riparian vegetation simulated in the model.

Stream surface area exposed to air and shading from tall riparian vegetation had the largest influence on stream temperatures compared to

air temperature and streamflow. These model results suggest that constraining channel width and development of tall riparian vegetation has the potential to mitigate the deleterious effects of future climate scenarios. While riparian restoration requires time to achieve anticipated results, investment in this restoration strategy will have critically important, positive effects to salmonid species and their habitats over the long term.

Response of Macroinvertebrates to Restoration Actions

Because macroinvertebrates are the dominant food source for juvenile salmonids in the MFJDR, it is important to understand the causal mechanisms linking stream restoration, macroinvertebrates, and salmonid production. We predicted that restoration actions in the MFJDR would increase overall macroinvertebrate abundance, increase the number of taxa, and produce community compositions more closely resembling those at undisturbed reference sites. To test these predictions, benthic and drift macroinvertebrate communities were compared between control and restored reaches in the MFJDR.

We found that, contrary to our prediction, restoration actions have not significantly affected the macroinvertebrate community composition when compared to reference sites. However, restoration actions did appear to affect the amount of drift macroinvertebrate biomass within the MFJDR from year to year. This was likely due to disturbance of the substrate and drift mobilizations from restoration activities. We also found, again contrary to our hypothesis, that restored reaches had a significantly lower number of drift taxa, probably because the disturbance caused by active restoration may alter the type and number of taxa at that site over the short term. Overall, however, we often observed more variability between years than sites, indicating that annual environmental conditions were more influential than management actions over the short-term period we monitored macroinvertebrate response.

Socio-Economic Benefits of Restoration

We monitored the contribution of restoration projects to the socio-economic health of the local community (often referred to as 'the restoration economy'). This work aims to better understand if and how watershed restoration benefits the local economy. Community indicators assessed the overall socio-economic well-being of Grant County over time. Outcome measures estimated the contribution of MFIMW restoration work to the Grant County economy. The indicators show that Grant County was in socio-economic decline over the past 40-50 years, but that conditions are improving. In particular, jobs and earnings are on upward trajectories, with other indicators supporting that trend. At the same time, restoration work is bringing work and money into the Grant County economy, contributing to its recovery. The 100 restoration projects documented in the restoration

inventory from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2017 brought a minimum of \$15.6 million dollars into the local economy, along with creating almost 170 jobs and generating additional economic activity in the range of \$20-25 million.

Lessons Learned and Recommendations

Adaptive management is an important tool that should be used to guide restoration actions and be integrated within an IMW framework (Bouwes et al. 2016). As part of the adaptive management process, we asked that researchers and restoration practitioners share lessons learned and future recommendations based on their involvement with the MFIMW. These lessons and recommendations extended beyond what was learned from study findings; they illustrate how the participants would incorporate improved methodologies and strategies into subsequent phases of the IMW process and future IMW programs. During this process, several similar themes emerged from multiple participants. Therefore, lessons learned and recommendations are grouped by the three main topics: Planning, Monitoring, and Restoration. In this context, planning refers to the planning, facilitation, and coordination of the MFIMW process and group itself. We pair lessons learned with accompanying recommendations based on what we gleaned from participant experience. These lessons provide valuable insights for ongoing planning, monitoring, and restoration efforts within the MFIMW and similar IMW efforts.

Planning

Lesson Learned

The monitoring plan designed at the beginning of the study was compromised by unanticipated restoration projects that were implemented during the course of monitoring. There were many organizations implementing restoration actions across the MFIMW study area and a lack of coordination resulted in some restoration projects being implemented in designated control reaches.

Recommendations

Ongoing communication among restoration practitioners and researchers is integral to the long-term success of IMW programs. A communication framework for coordinating these activities is essential to maintaining the integrity of the experimental and monitoring design. A complete review of monitoring activities should be conducted each year prior to the field season and before additional or subsequent restoration occurs.

Lesson Learned

Assessment of the linkages between restoration investments and economic indicators must be designed so that they are relevant to the conditions and situations experienced in local communities.

Recommendation

Identify socio-economic indicators and outcome measures in consultation with local officials and the community.

Monitoring

Lesson Learned

Numerous research studies (e.g., macroinvertebrates and water temperature) were negatively affected by inconsistent temporal and spatial monitoring over their durations. Consistency is the backbone of a successful study design, allowing for long-term quantitative comparisons of restored and control locations.

Recommendation

It is imperative to have a consistent data collection effort across both temporal and spatial scales. Clear and consistent monitoring goals, documentation of site selection, communication among collaborators, data quality assurance/quality control, and ongoing data analyses will help researchers determine which sampling sites are most important to sample consistently over time.

Lesson Learned

The MFIMW was challenged by a lack of control locations with sufficiently similar conditions to be justifiably compared to restoration locations for salmonid productivity monitoring. For instance, the Camp Creek sub-watershed possessed unique geologic, biologic and hydrologic characteristics that were not adequately represented in other tributaries of the MFJDR. Murderer's Creek from the SFJDR was employed as the control watershed for this reason.

Recommendation

It is recommended that restoration and control reaches be allocated within the same watershed, but with careful attention to maintaining independence. Under this scenario, reach-scale monitoring will be most effective if restoration reaches are paired with control reaches that share similar environmental and physical conditions. Alternatively, replicate reaches can be allocated randomly throughout the watershed so that the conditions of the watershed are represented equally across groups.

Lesson Learned

A life cycle model linking fish to habitat variables would have provided a valuable tool at the beginning of the MFIMW effort.

Recommendation

Life cycle modeling can aid in predicting the expected magnitudes and timing of fisheries responses from restoration, and could enhance the probability of success of detecting these responses to restoration actions during IMW monitoring phases. Applying insights gained through these efforts would also help to prioritize restoration actions that maximize restoration effects on population metrics.

Lesson Learned

Natural environmental variability can swamp habitat and fisheries responses to restoration. Increasing baseline or pre-treatment monitoring can reduce noise level by predicting and subtracting among-year variance in the response signal due to environmental fluctuations.

Recommendation

Adequate baseline information is needed to confidently estimate temporal variance of the response variables in pre-treatment conditions. These metrics include salmonid growth, survival, density, and movement, but should also include covariates such as temperature, discharge, and spawner abundance. Ideally, researchers should monitor both treatment and control locations for multiple years prior to restoration. This information would 1) help explain the influence of pre-treatment climate and habitat variables on populations, and 2) provide enough baseline data to be able to factor out environmental variability. Sufficient duration of post-treatment monitoring is also essential to confirm consistency of response variables and covariates in the control location (through the course of study) and to allow time for restorations actions to fully develop and deliver expected responses.

Lesson Learned

Targeting cold-water input locations for habitat improvements (e.g., large wood additions, channel reconfiguration) may have additive or even multiplicative effects on salmonid productivity. There was a missed opportunity to examine the interacting effects of coinciding and favorable habitat variables in the MFIMW.

Recommendation

These strategies can be better understood by continued monitoring of the Oxbow Phase 3, 4, and 5 projects, which occurred at the end of the current MFIMW study.

Lesson Learned

Restoration actions aimed at improving watershed function may take decades to mature. Some processes and cycles that influence salmonid populations span much longer than 10 years, and will not manifest a fish population response within a 10-year period.

Recommendation

Expectations for restoration outcomes need to be tempered with a realistic understanding of the rate at which natural systems can recover from almost two centuries of Euro-American settlement and land use. Slow restorative processes, such as vegetative change, and those that manifest over generations of the target species require planning and monitoring over decadal scales. However, responses to restoration actions such as fish passage, channel reconfiguration, and cover enhancements require less time to observe a fisheries response and can be targeted successfully for shorter term experiments.

Restoration - From the Researchers

Lesson Learned

Channel reconfigurations, which provide habitat and channel complexity to salmonids, can also increase stream temperatures by increasing stream surface area.

Recommendation

Because channel reconfiguration addresses limiting factors such as habitat quality and quantity, managers will need to consider these goals in relation to other factors, such as short-term elevated stream temperatures versus long-term vegetation recovery, during planning and design phases. Prioritizing limiting factors and clearly specifying restoration goals during this phase will maximize the return on costly restoration investments such as active channel reconfiguration.

Lesson Learned

Targeting cold-water input locations for habitat improvements could have been an effective strategy to maximize benefits from costly restoration actions.

Recommendation

The magnitude and location of cold-water inputs into the MFJDR from tributaries and groundwater upwelling should be leveraged in future restoration designs.

Restoration - From the Restoration Practitioners

Lesson Learned

Intense deer and elk browsing pressure prevented riparian plantings from effectively shading the river in some areas.

Recommendation

Invest in elk-proof fencing on major restoration efforts to protect riparian plantings if browsing pressure presents serious risks to restoration outcomes.

Lesson Learned

Installing willow cuttings, planting nursery stock, and transplanting native vegetation that was salvaged from the restoration site was an extremely challenging task for the heavy equipment contractor.

Recommendation

Salvage and re-plant all native vegetation when possible. Hire a full-time vegetation care specialist to work with the contractor on plant salvage and planting operations.

Lesson Learned

Riffle construction in newly constructed channels can be a difficult prospect. Without a sealed riffle crest, water during low flows tended to move subsurface through glide substrates, especially at sites where the start of the glide was at a higher elevation than the riffle crest. If the riffles wash out, habitat for an entire stream segment may be lost.

Recommendation

Channel design should conform to a profile where the riffle crest or head is the highest feature in the substrate. Riffles need fines washed in to ensure the matrix is hardened and stable.



Photo 4. Young cottonwoods. *Courtesy of ODFW.*

Next Steps

Building from the long list summarized in this document, the MFIMW workgroup will prioritize recommendations for Planning, Monitoring, and Restoration over the next year. The agencies and organizations participating in the MFIMW will prioritize among the recommendations and develop a specific and actionable work plan. The work plan will prioritize what is anticipated to be accomplished within the next year, over 2-5 years and within the next 5-10 years.

Many participants are interested in developing an outreach strategy to report the MFIMW key findings to various audiences. These outreach efforts will likely span over a period of time to receive adequate input and develop the appropriate approach and materials to inform the different audiences that are identified. Important work that also awaits us is to make modifications to core priority monitoring efforts to ensure the study design is sufficient to provide data that will continue to help us answer our questions. In addition, the MFIMW will work proactively with NMFS, the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Project (PNAMP) and other IMWs in the PNW to reflect on the lessons learned across the broader IMW network and determine how the MFIMW moves forward to provide needed information for decision-makers and practitioners.



Oregon

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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. In 2017, OWEB began a process to revise its policy and worked with LCIS to distribute the draft policy to tribes in Oregon for review and comments. OWEB is currently in final stages to incorporate the comments that were received to complete this revised policy. It is our intent to distribute the policy to tribes in early 2018.

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 during 2017 with Oregon's nine federally recognized tribal governments and the Nez Perce Tribe that shares territory in Idaho and Oregon.

OWEB Board and Management

Board Membership

The Governor appoints a tribal representative as a voting member of the OWEB board. The position currently is occupied by Jason Robison, Natural Resources Director of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians. He began his term in February 2017 when the term of Eric Quaempts, Natural Resources Director of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, was complete.

The tribal position helps identify opportunities for collaboration and ensures the OWEB board and staff are aware of their responsibilities to involve and consider tribal interests. Robison is fully engaged in this process and actively participates on the board's focused investments and monitoring subcommittees.

Grant Program

1. **Grant Applicants.** OWEB grants are available to a broad range of entities, including tribes [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.
2. **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 \$15,000 for watershed restoration purposes. Other members of the teams include watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts. In 2017, nine tribal agency representatives served on 17 of the 28 Small Grants Teams.
3. **Regular Grant Program Tribal Participation.** OWEB solicits grant applications twice a year through the Regular Grant Program. During 2017, four grants were awarded to tribes: Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, two grants totaling \$141,090; Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, one grant totaling \$572,859; and Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, one grant totaling \$376,030. Tribal agencies have also submitted four applications in the most

recent grant cycle, for which awards have not yet been made. Since 2006, OWEB has awarded approximately \$5,500,000 in grants to tribal governments. OWEB's Regional Program Representatives (RPRs) have regular contact with tribal staff who administer the grants which OWEB provides to tribes in Oregon. This includes meeting with interested tribes prior to grant application submission and continues all the way through the completion of the grant.

4. **Regular Grant Program – Tribal Participation on Regional Review Teams.** Applications received through OWEB's Regular Grant Program are reviewed by one of six Regional Review Teams, comprised of state, federal, and tribal natural resource professionals. In 2017, seven tribal agency representatives participated on agency Regional Review Teams, including representatives from the Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, The Klamath Tribes, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon.
5. **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 notifies tribes after an acquisition application is received. In addition, in 2017 OWEB's executive director, grant program manager and tribal liaison met with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians fisheries program manager to discuss their long term interests and planning efforts related to land acquisition and restoration.
6. **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 instream flow. OWEB provides notification to tribes after a water acquisition grant application is received.
7. **Focused Investment Partnership Program.** In 2017, tribes continued to participate in the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Program. The OWEB board made the initial awards in the newly created program in 2016. The FIP Program offers Implementation and Capacity-Building funding.

Implementation funding provides opportunities for tribes and others to work collaboratively in partnerships on ambitious, long-term, and landscape-scale programmatic restoration initiatives aimed at creating measurable outcomes within priority areas that were identified by the OWEB board. Two of the six Implementation FIPs that were funded by the OWEB board include tribes in their core partnerships, including the Burns Paiute Tribe and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. In addition, the Grande Ronde and the Deschutes River FIPs have tribal representatives on the technical review team from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, respectively.

Two-year Capacity-Building FIP funding allows partnerships to produce or enhance a Strategic Action Plan, and in doing so, to cultivate their partnership and develop an approach to programmatic restoration actions in their focused geography. Six of the eight Collaborative-Building FIPs which the board awarded in 2016 include tribes as core partners. Those include the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, Nez Perce Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

In October 2017, the OWEB board awarded new Capacity-Building FIP grants. Three of the four partnerships that received funding include tribes as core partners. Those tribes include the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, who participate in two of the newly funded partnerships. The other partnership includes Lomakatsi Restoration. While not a tribal government agency, this non-profit organization is heavily involved in applying Traditional Ecological Knowledge and providing employment and technical training for tribal members working on watershed restoration projects. In addition, OWEB met with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon to discuss their questions about the FIP program and how they can work with a variety of partnerships that are emerging to meet tribal goals and objectives.

8. **Other Grant Program Involvements.** The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon is a key participant in the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed and is receiving additional funding for the current federal fiscal year and state biennium for their work.

OWEB staff participates on the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation's John Day restoration review team, which allocates Bonneville Power Administration funding for watershed restoration projects designed to improve salmon habitat.

OWEB staff also participates in the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP). The WWMP is the result of the State's 2010 agreement with Bonneville Power Administration for mitigation 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.

OWEB's Technical Services Program convened a meeting with tribes that receive and co-report on Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund grants. OWEB and tribes both receive these funds from NOAA and are required to report on the outcomes of these grants. To reduce confusion and potential duplicative reporting, OWEB acted proactively to engage the tribes to discuss potential solutions to address this issue.

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)

OAHP was established by the Oregon legislature in 2017 to provide voluntary incentives to farmers and ranchers to support practices that maintain or enhance agriculture and fish, wildlife, or other natural resources on agricultural lands. The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (commission) oversees the program and makes funding and policy recommendations to the OWEB Board. The commission will consist of 12 members who are appointed by the OWEB Board, including one member selected by the OWEB Board who is a representative of tribal interests. To fill this position OWEB worked with the Federally Recognized Tribes in Oregon to seek qualified applicants. After significant outreach efforts OWEB received several applicants from interested representatives of tribes in Oregon. OWEB plans to select Nathan Jackson, who is a rancher and manages the K Bar Ranches Corporation for the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians. Nathan is also an enrolled tribal member of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians and Cattlemen's Association President.

Promotion of Communication between OWEB and Tribes

1. **Tribal Liaison.** 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. OWEB discussed the tribal policy with all staff to highlight its importance and discuss ways to implement the identified measures.
2. **Training and Technical Support for Grantees.** In 2015, OWEB initiated a tribal outreach plan aimed at increasing the involvement of tribes in our grant programs and in our agency's policy development.
 - i. As a result of that work, one important topic OWEB staff and management worked on in 2017 was increasing restoration grantee awareness of federal, tribal and state Cultural Resources Protection regulations. OWEB worked with representatives from the State Historic Preservation Office, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Coquille Indian Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon to hold a session at a conference for restoration practitioners, and through a webinar to describe the regulatory process and provide resources to help grantees successfully comply with these important laws.
 - ii. In addition, OWEB provided funding to Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) technicians to attend the State Parks Archeology training in April 2017 to learn more about this regulatory process, and to identify and protect cultural resources before implementing contracts.
 - iii. Finally, OWEB has provided additional funding to the Farm Services Agency and CREP technicians to help them hire licensed archeologists to perform cultural resources

surveys during the planning process and monitoring when implementing CREP contracts on private property, if required.

3. **Cultural Resources Protection Permits.** OWEB's grant agreement contains language that require the grantee submit to the board's Project Manager copies of all required permits or licenses, or submit written evidence that permits and licenses are not required, before the release of board funds. In addition, OWEB added language to its grant agreement that specifically identifies State, Federal, and Tribal Cultural Resources Protection permits may be required prior to implementing their restoration project. OWEB will continue to emphasize to our grantees and grant project managers the importance of complying with regulations to protect cultural resources.
4. **Annual Tribal Summit and Tribal Work Groups.** OWEB's executive director and tribal liaison attended the Annual Tribal Summit and training in Lincoln City to engage and listen to tribal representatives to better understand the issues that are important to them. The tribal liaison also attended Tribal Natural Resources Workgroup meetings in 2017 to share information and to better understand key initiatives tribes and state natural resource agencies are working on that may be relevant to each other. In addition, the tribal liaison participated in a meeting of state natural resources agencies organized by ODF and the governor's office to discuss the status of each agency's tribal policy and share lessons learned while working with tribes in Oregon.
5. **Administrative Rules.** In 2017, OWEB provided information to Tribes to request comments on three different administrative rule changes and development. A representative of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon sat on the Rule Advisory Committee (RAC) for the stakeholder engagement grant offering rule changes.
6. **Informal Meetings with Tribes.** OWEB staff met in person with two tribes at their local offices in 2017 to improve relations and better understand their short- and long-term goals and objectives related to watershed monitoring and restoration. On June 20th, the Region 4 program representative and tribal liaison met with The Klamath Tribes natural resources staff and received a tour of their water quality laboratory and fish culture facilities in Chiloquin. In addition, staff toured the Tribes' Sprague River monitoring and future restoration sites to discuss ongoing scientific studies and outreach efforts within their tribal community. On June 26th, the Region 2 program representative and tribal liaison met with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians to hear about the Tribe's plans to meet their river restoration goals and objectives to improve fish habitat and improve access for tribal members to hunt, fish, and gather culturally significant materials.
7. **Partner Communications.** OWEB is also partnering with the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils to expand communications with tribes. In 2017, the Network hosted an all-day meeting with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community

to discuss areas of mutual interest related to watershed restoration projects with Willamette Valley watershed councils. This meeting was opened by a tribal council member and attended by tribal natural resources and cultural resources staff. OWEB staff attended as well.

OWEB is working with several state natural resources agencies to plan a 2018 mid- and north-coast water monitoring summit. As part of the planning process, OWEB's tribal liaison reached out to tribes who have interest in coastal issues to invite them to attend the summit and provide input in the development of the meeting's agenda and list of presenters. The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians will present their monitoring efforts related to water quality impacts to shellfish on the coast.

OWEB's tribal liaison is participating in Portland State University's Professional Certificate in Tribal Relations. This year-long course includes a tour of reservations in Oregon and Washington in 2018, a trip to attend NCAI's annual meeting in Washington DC, and a tour to meet with state legislators in Washington and Oregon.

9. **Strategic Plan.** In January 2017, OWEB initiated a process to develop a 5-10 year Strategic Plan, seeking extensive public and tribal input. Tribal member Eric Quaempts sits on the board's external advisory group to provide the board insights and perspectives on strategic plan development. In addition, OWEB has interviewed tribal representatives about their experiences and work with OWEB, as well as the impact OWEB has had on tribes, communities, and watersheds over the last 20 years. Finally, OWEB hosted two tribal focus group conference calls to discuss ideas on how to implement the 8 strategic priority actions the OWEB board developed.

It is through these interactions that relations are developed and trust is built. OWEB looks forward to building off of these blossoming relationships in 2018 and in the years to come.

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD MEMBERSHIP

VOTING MEMBERS

(Representatives of Natural Resource Agency Boards/Commissions and Public Members)

Water Resources Commission

MEG REEVES
Corvallis, OR

Board of Agriculture

LAURA MASTERSON
Portland, OR

Public at Large

RANDY LABBE
Portland, OR

Public at Large

JAN LEE
Sandy, OR

Fish and Wildlife Commission

BOB WEBBER
Port Orford, OR

Board of Forestry

VACANT

Public at Large

WILL NEUHAUSER
Yamhill, OR

Public at Large

GARY MARSHALL
Hines, OR

Environmental Quality Commission

VACANT

Public at Large

LIZA JANE McALISTER
Enterprise, OR

Public at Large (Tribal Representative)

JASON ROBISON
Cow Creek Band of
Umpqua Tribe of Indians
Roseburg, OR

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

NRCS Rep

RON ALVARADO
Natural Resources Conservation Serv
Portland, OR

Extension Service Rep

STEPHEN BRANDT
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR

BLM Rep

KATHY STANGL
Bureau of Land Management
Portland, OR

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Rep

PAUL HENSON
US Fish & Wildlife Serv
Portland, OR

U.S. EPA Rep

ALAN HENNING
Environmental Protection Agency
Eugene, OR

U.S. Forest Service Rep

DEBBIE HOLLEN
USDA Forest Serv.
Portland, OR

NMFS Rep

ROSEMARY FURFEY
National Marine Fisheries Serv
Portland, OR

If you have a question or comment for the OWEB Board, please email darika.barnes@oregon.gov



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Materials

for

**April 24-25, 2018
Board Meeting**

Frenchglen, Oregon



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Agenda

April 24-25

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Frenchglen Elementary School

39235 Hwy 205

Frenchglen, OR 97736

Directions: <https://goo.gl/maps/AnVRkRJWVgB2>

Business Meeting – 8:00 a.m.

For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. The board may also elect to take an item out of order in certain circumstances. During the public comment periods (Agenda Items E, G, H, I, N, and O), 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 3 to 5 minutes.*** Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after April 17, 2018 will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

A. Board Member Comments (8:10 a.m.)

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 (8:50 a.m.)

The minutes of the January 30-31, 2018 meeting in Florence will be presented for approval. *Action item.*

C. Board Co-Chair Election (8:55 a.m.)

The current term of Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Co-Chair Randy Labbe ends in April 2018. Co-Chair Will Neuhauser will lead a discussion and vote by board members to elect one board Co-Chair position for a new two-year term. *Action item.*

D. Board Subcommittee Updates (9:00 a.m.)

Representatives from board subcommittees will provide updates on subcommittee topics to the full board. *Information item.*

E. Public Comment (9:20 a.m.)

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

F. Small Grant Program – Administrative Rule Amendments (9:35 a.m.)

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will present final rule amendments for the small grant program for board consideration and approval. Public comment associated with this item may be heard as part of general public comment. However, because this item has already been the subject of a formal public hearing and a comment period, further public testimony may not be taken except upon changes made to the item since the original public comment period, or upon the direct request of the board members in order to obtain additional information. *Action item.*

G. Fall 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering (10:10 a.m.)

NOTE: Public Comment specific for this agenda item at approximately 11:20 a.m.

Introduction

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and OWEB Regional Program Representatives will provide background information on the Fall 2017 Open Solicitation grant offering.

Public Comment [approximately 11:20 a.m.]

This time is reserved for public comment on pending restoration, technical assistance, monitoring, and stakeholder engagement 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. Any written comments pertaining to pending grant proposals must be received by agency staff by the **April 17, 2018 deadline** in order to be provided to the board in advance of the meeting. ***The board encourages speakers to limit comments to 3 to 5 minutes.***

Board Consideration of Pending Open Solicitation Grant Applications

The board will consider grant applications submitted through the Fall 2017 Open Solicitation grant offering. Proposals, supporting materials, and funding recommendations will be discussed and acted on by the Board. *Action item.*

H. Land Acquisition Grant Awards (1:30 p.m.)

NOTE: Public Comment specific for this agenda item at approximately 1:50 p.m.

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will request board action on land acquisition grant applications that were received during the Fall 2017 grant offering. The board will hear public comment on land acquisition applications. *Action item.*

I. Water Acquisition Grant Awards (2:50 p.m.)

NOTE: Public Comment specific for this agenda item at approximately 3:05 p.m.

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy will request board action on water acquisition grant applications that were received during the Fall 2017 grant offering. The board will hear public comment on water acquisition applications. *Action item.*

Tour – 3:45 p.m.

The OWEB Board and staff will participate in a field tour of uplands restoration on Roaring Springs Ranch. The tour will be leaving from the Frenchglen Elementary School. Anyone is welcome to join the tour, but please be prepared to provide your own transportation and be prepared for inclement weather.

Informal Reception – 5:45 p.m. - 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:

Roaring Springs Ranch
31437 Highway 205
Frenchglen, OR 97736

Wednesday, April 25, 2018**Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.**

For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. The board may also elect to take an item out of order in certain circumstances. During the public comment periods (Agenda Items E, G, H, I, N, and O), 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 3 to 5 minutes.*** Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after April 17, 2018 will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

J. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (8:00 a.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will update the board on the timeline for developing rules for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program, and board members Laura Masterson and Will Neuhauser will brief the board on the latest developments of the program. *Information item.*

K. OWEB Agency Request Budget (8:20 a.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Deputy Director Renee Davis will provide the board an initial presentation on the agency request budget that OWEB will be submitting to the Governor for the 2019-2021 biennium. *Information item.*

L. Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring Funding Request (8:50 a.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis will request the board provide funding for items related to effectiveness monitoring, including for the Focused Investment Partnership program, programmatic effectiveness monitoring to “tell the story” of OWEB’s restoration investments, and the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership. *Action item.*

M. Organizational Collaboration Grant Awards (9:35 a.m.)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff will request board action on an organizational collaboration grant application that was submitted during the March, 2018 grant offering. *Action item.*

N. Public Comment (10:05 a.m.)

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

O. OWEB Strategic Plan (10:20 a.m.)

NOTE: Public Comment specific for this agenda item at approximately 10:20 a.m.

After public comment, Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will join Principal Consultant Steve Patty and Associate Consultant Jessamyn Luiz with Dialogues in Action to seek the board’s feedback on the revised strategies and proposed actions that have emerged from an extensive community involvement process in developing OWEB’s new strategic plan. *Information item.*

P. Executive Director's Update (11:50 a.m.)

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

Q. Other Business (12:15 p.m.)

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

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 18 members. Of these, 11 are voting members and seven 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 **6 voting members**. General business requires a majority of **all** voting members to pass a resolution (not just those present), so general business resolutions require affirmative votes of **at least 6 voting members**. Typical resolutions include adopting, amending, or appealing a rule, providing staff direction, etc. These resolutions cannot include a funding decision.

Action on Grant Awards

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

Public Testimony

The board encourages public comment on any agenda item.

General public comment periods will be held on *Tuesday, April 24 at 9:20 a.m.* and *Wednesday, April at 10:05 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 3 to 5 minutes.* Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after *April 17, 2018* will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

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 or send an e-mail to darika.barnes@oregon.gov. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise Darika Barnes 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*
Vacant, *Environmental Quality Commission*
Bruce Buckmaster, *Fish and Wildlife Commission member*
Vacant, *Board of Forestry*
Meg Reeves, *Water Resources Commission*
Jason Robison, *Public (tribal)*
Gary Marshall, *Public*
Will Neuhauser, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Randy Labbe, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Jan Lee, *Public*
Liza Jane McAlister, *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*
Paul Henson, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Contact Information

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775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
Salem, Oregon 97301-1290
Tel: 503-986-0178
Fax: 503-986-0199
www.oregon.gov/OWEB

OWEB Executive Director – Meta Loftsgaarden

meta.loftsgaarden@oregon.gov

OWEB Assistant to Executive Director and Board – Darika Barnes

darika.barnes@oregon.gov

503-986-0181

2018 Board Meeting Schedule

January 30-31, in Florence
April 24-25, in Frenchglen
June 26-27, Stevenson, WA and Cascade Locks
October 16-17, Brookings/Gold Beach

2019 Board Meeting Schedule

January 15-16, North Coast TBD
April 16-17, in Salem
July 16-17, in Klamath Falls
October 15-16, TBD

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

www.oregon.gov/OWEB.



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!**

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

**Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
January 30, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting
Best Western Pier Point Inn Conference Center
85625 US Highway 101
Florence, OR 97439**

MINUTES (Audio time stamps on this day reference recording at <https://youtu.be/RMjwvOZ9q0>).
Some agenda items may be discussed out of order.

OWEB Members Present

Brandt, Stephen
Furfey, Rosemary
Labbe, Randy
Lee, Jan
Marshall, Gary
Masterson, Laura
McAlister, Liza Jane
Neuhauser, Will
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason
Stangl, Kathy
Webber, Bob

ABSENT:

Alvarado, Ron
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Henson, Paul

VACANT:

Environmental Quality Commission
Board of Forestry

OWEB Staff Present

Barnes, Darika
Davis, Renee
Duzik, Katie
Fetcho, Ken
Hartstein, Eric
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

Others Present

Beamer, Kelley
Buckmaster, Bruce
Coordes, Regan
Craig, Amanda
Keith, John
Klock, Clair
Luiz, Jessamyn
McDonald, Jessica
Morford, Shawn
Patty, Steve
Pope, Michael
Riley, Eric
Schmelzer, Julie
Souder, Jon
Sundstrom, Johnny
Taylor, Barbara

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 a.m. by Co-Chair Will Neuhauser.

A. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:00:00)

Board members provided updates on issues and activities related to their respective geographic regions and/or from the state and federal natural resource agencies they represent.

B. Review and Approval of Minutes (Audio = 0:36:00)

Minutes of the October 24-25, 2017 board meeting in Lebanon were presented to the board for approval.

Gary Marshall moved the board approve the minutes from the October 24-25, 2017 meeting in Lebanon. The motion was seconded by Co-Chair Will Neuhauser. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 0:36:45)

C. Board Subcommittee Updates (Audio = 0:37:15)

Representatives from the Focused Investments, Monitoring, and Open Solicitation subcommittees provided updates to the full board on current subcommittee topics and activities.

D. Public Comment (Audio = 0:46:30)

The board was addressed by Kelley Beamer from the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT). Beamer provided an overview of COLT operations and their role in supporting conservation in Oregon. She said COLT recently hired a communications contractor to help broadcast their message.

Shawn Morford from the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils also addressed the board to discuss their role in the upcoming CONNECT Conference happening in Seaside in April and the topics to be presented. Morford also mentioned that progress is occurring in her role in facilitating for the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council.

Clair Klock came to represent Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District to endorse monitoring and funding for equipment purchases as recommended in Agenda Item F.

(Audio = 3:42:08) Johnny Sundstrom, representing the Siuslaw Institute, came before the board to discuss the past student outreach activities of the Institute and how the change of OWEB Outreach grants to Stakeholder Engagement grants will impact the future of conservation and restoration in Oregon.

E. Tide Gate Literature Review (Audio = 0:59:40)

Deputy Director Renee Davis provided background on the board-funded effort to compile and review existing literature and materials from the Pacific Northwest that describes the effects of tide gate restoration projects. Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho provided a summary of findings contained in the literature review, and an overview of the report's Executive Summary. Oregon State University's (OSU) Watershed Management Specialist, Jon Souder, explained the function of tide gates with a detailed description of tidal cycles. Souder presented examples of gate designs with improved performance, and talked about how design and function of tide gate structures can maximize different functions in differing landscapes. Souder said there are significant gaps in the research of hydrologic and species movement involving tide gates and emphasized the importance of understanding habitat on both sides of the gates.

F. Volunteer Water-Quality Monitoring Equipment Funding (Audio = 2:07:25)

Deputy Director Renee Davis provided an overview of the State of Oregon's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program and requested funding to support equipment purchases for the program, which is administered by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Will Neuhauser moved the board award \$39,651 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan in support of new and replacement equipment for the Department of Environmental Quality's Volunteer Water-Quality Monitoring Program, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of January 30, 2018. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:17:10)

G. Coordinated Streamside Management / Strategic Implementation Area Monitoring (Audio = 2:18:00)

Deputy Director Renee Davis explained the evolution of the multi-agency Coordinated Streamside Management approach to water quality improvements and briefed the board about Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) monitoring as part of this framework. Davis requested funding to support this monitoring for up to twelve SIAs selected during the 2017-19 biennium.

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board award \$300,000 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan for Strategic Implementation Area monitoring, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of January 30, 2018. The motion was seconded by Gary Marshall. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:43:15)

H. Organization Collaboration Grant – Shared Space Project Update (Audio = 2:44:40)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff was joined by Michael Pope and Jessica McDonald from the Greenbelt Land trust to present the history of collaboration at the Corvallis Shared Space Center. They demonstrated the many benefits of sharing space, and provided an update to the status of the Organization Collaboration Shared Space Project among Greenbelt Land Trust, Benton Soil and Water Conservation District, Institute for Applied Ecology, and Marys River Watershed Council.

I. Governor’s Priorities, Post-Fire Response (Audio = 3:13:00)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams requested the board support technical assistance needs required for a local response to catastrophic wildfire impacts to watershed health on private lands as a result of the Chetco Bar Fire in Southwest Oregon. Williams explained the importance of meeting landowner outreach, assessment, and project prioritization needs following a wildfire in a timely manner which cannot be accommodated within a typical OWEB grant offering.

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden discussed the lack of an existing mechanism to address this type of urgent issue and the potential for a future proposal to reserve technical assistance funds for disaster response.

Randy Labbe moved the board delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into a grant agreement to implement technical assistance activities to identify and develop responses to immediate watershed health needs caused by the Chetco Bar Fire on private lands in an amount not to exceed \$25,000, to be taken from the Governor’s Priorities line item in the 2017-2019 spending plan. The motion was seconded by Bob Webber. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:24:40)

L. Director's Update (Audio = 3:25:50)

L-1: Legislative Update (3:25:50)

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein provided a brief update to the board on the recent activities of the Oregon Legislature, including the addition of a representative from U.S. Fish & Wildlife to the OWEB Board, and the modification of a reporting date for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds Biennial Report to even years, which allows for better alignment with the biennium. He also mentioned the November senate confirmations of two at large OWEB Board members, Jan Lee and Liza Jane McAlister, and announced the February 8th start date for the legislature's short session in 2018.

L-2: Rulemaking Update (3:30:00)

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein provided a brief update on rulemaking activities for small grants to reflect board decisions to amend rules and to correct minor inconsistencies. He also discussed the current rulemaking process and future activities of a Rules Advisory Committee for technical assistance grants.

L-6: Board Subcommittee Assignments (3:34:35)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden reviewed opportunities for board members to serve on four standing subcommittees (Open Solicitation, Monitoring, Focused Investment, and Capacity) and one ad hoc committee (Acquisitions). She discussed committee structure and the process for participating.

J. Strategic Plan (Audio = 3:52:30)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden, supported by Steve Patty from Dialogues in Action, presented the steps in OWEB's strategic planning process over the past year and the suite of strategies that have emerged from an extensive community involvement process in developing OWEB's new strategic plan.

Patty asked the board to consider that the timeline for strategic plan implementation is five to ten years, and that the next step will be about developing specific actions necessary to implement the plan. He assisted the board in identifying what may be missing from the set of strategies. Loftsgaarden noted the strategies and actions will be back before the board in April for further discussion and refinement.

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 3:00 p.m. by Co-Chair Neuhauser. (Audio = 5:40:00)

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

January 31, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting

Best Western Pier Point Inn Conference Center

85625 US Highway 101

Florence, OR 97439

MINUTES (Audio time stamps on this day reference recording at https://youtu.be/JaV1_KIC1mY).

Some agenda items are discussed out of order.

OWEB Members Present

Brandt, Stephen
Furfey, Rosemary
Labbe, Randy
Lee, Jan
Marshall, Gary
Masterson, Laura
McAlister, Liza Jane
Neuhauser, Will
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason
Stangl, Kathy
Webber, Bob

OWEB Staff Present

Barnes, Darika
Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Duzik, Katie
Fetcho, Ken
Hartstein, Eric
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

Others Present

Beamer, Kelley
Buckmaster, Bruce
Coordes, Regan
Keith, John
Klock, Clair
Ruzycki, Jim
Selker, John
Taylor, Barbara

ABSENT:

Alvarado, Ron
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Henson, Paul

VACANT:

Environmental Quality
Commission
Board of Forestry

The meeting was called to reconvene at 8:00 a.m. by Co-Chair Will Neuhauser.

K. Public Comment (Audio = 0:00:10)

Clair Klock came before the board to talk about fire response and OWEB's strategic plan, especially regarding small acreage.

John Keith, representing the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, came before the board to introduce himself as the new executive director and present the current activities of his organization.

L. Director's Update (Audio = 0:08:35)

L-3: Focused Investment Partnership Capacity Building Name Change and 2018 Offering Schedule (0:09:00)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff provided an update on the name change for Capacity Building Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grants to "Development FIP" grants. She also presented the schedule for the second offering of the biennium.

L-4: Lower Columbia River Watershed Council Update (0:13:10)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff and Region One Program Representative Katie Duzik provided an update on the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council's progress towards meeting OWEB's funding requirements associated with the 2017-2019 Council Capacity grant award.

L-5: State Revolving Fund Loan Application for Septic System Upgrades (0:17:00)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams updated the board on a new effort in partnership with Craft3, a nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution, to apply to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality State Revolving Loan Fund to provide affordable loans to owners of failing On Site Sewage Disposal Systems. If the project moves forward, staff will request board approval to enter into loan agreements to implement the program.

M. Focused Investment Partnership Administrative Rules (Audio = 0:29:15)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein updated the board on the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grants rulemaking process, and requested board approval on the proposed administrative rules.

The board was given an opportunity to ask questions for each section and discuss proposed changes. Williams and Hartstein addressed questions from the board, assisted by Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden.

A set of revised proposed rules which incorporated board-recommended changes was printed and distributed to board members. (Audio = 3:30:01)

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board approve the Focused Investment Partnership Grants administrative rules as specified in Attachment C to the staff report. The motion was seconded by Bob Webber. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:40:40)

Board member Jason Robison announced the presence of Margaret Corvi, who is the Natural Resources Director for the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians. Robison thanked Corvi and her Tribe for the opportunity to participate in a meeting within a portion of the Tribe's ancestral homelands.

N. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (Audio = 1:45:15)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden updated the board on the progress of the new Oregon Agriculture Heritage Program and Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (OAHC) member selection. She presented the background information on the program, the timeline of expected activities of the OAHC over the next year, and the role of the OWEB Board in relation to the OAHC. Loftsgaarden presented a slate of names proposed for appointment to the OAHC and their proposed terms, and requested approval by the OWEB Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

Laura Masterson moved the board vote to appoint the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission members for the listed terms as described in Attachment B to the staff report. The motion was seconded by Gary Marshall. There was board discussion of the start date of commission member terms. The motion was amended by Bob Webber to designate terms as reflected in the House Bill. This friendly amendment was accepted by Laura Masterson and Gary Marshall. Jason Robison disclosed that he works closely with one of the proposed commissioners, Nathan Jackson from the Cow Creek Tribe, but does not see any perceived conflict of interest. Will Neuhauser abstained from the vote due to his name being listed as a proposed commissioner. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:14:30)

O. Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed (Audio = 2:22:20)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho, with Jim Ruzycki, Program Director from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and John Selker, Distinguished Professor from Oregon State University, presented the results of the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) final summary report. This presentation provided background on the IMW, summarized the key findings from monitoring, described lessons learned from the combined restoration and monitoring efforts in the Middle Fork John Day River, and outlined future monitoring needs of the IMW.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. by Co-Chair Will Neuhauser. (Audio = 3:41:50)

April 24-25, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting Monitoring Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee Members

Past-Chair Rosemary Furfey, Current Chair Alan Henning, Stephen Brandt, Jason Robison

Background

The Monitoring Subcommittee is discussing both open solicitation programmatic effectiveness monitoring (EM) and Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) monitoring. They also are overseeing the process to develop improved guidance for monitoring grant applications.

Summary of Monitoring Subcommittee Work this Quarter

The subcommittee met on February 6 and April 3, 2018, and discussed the following topics:

- Debrief from the January board meeting – The group discussed next steps from the monitoring related presentations at the meeting, in particular for the tide gate literature review, and the importance of providing periodic updates about status of next steps.
- Open Solicitation monitoring guidance – In February, staff updated the subcommittee about status of the process, including upcoming communications with monitoring applicants and grantees. In April, staff described how feedback received during the process is being organized and next steps for analyzing the feedback. The process will result in refinements to the monitoring application and/or guidance in the near term. Over the longer term, potential improvements to OWEB’s monitoring grant-making process that are identified will be cross-walked to strategic plan priorities.
- Monitoring related agenda items for the April 2018 board meeting – Staff briefed the subcommittee about three funding requests, along with livestock exclusion study results and the strategic plan items to be discussed at the board meeting.
 - FIP monitoring/reporting – As follow up to the progress monitoring framework developed with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation for FIPs and based on communications with the six Implementation FIPs, staff will request funding to address monitoring/reporting gaps identified by the results chains.
 - Programmatic EM / ‘Telling the Restoration Story’ – Staff reviewed potential locations and restoration actions for describing the ecological effects of restoration over different time horizons. Staff are reaching out to partners in ‘high potential’ areas to discuss opportunities, and will request funding to pursue an initial slate of retrospective analyses to ‘tell the story.’ The subcommittee suggested highlighting the potential for products to be used with multiple audiences and recommended using a ‘template’-type process to ensure consistency among the stories.
 - Conservation Effectiveness Partnership (CEP) – Staff updated the subcommittee about needed analyses to support the CEP’s work in Fifteenmile Creek, and will request funding to complete these analyses with CEP partner agencies.
 - Subcommittee members discussed the funding requests and concluded these are consistent with OWEB’s mission and programs.

The subcommittee will meet again on May 15, 2018.

To Be Presented at the April 2018 Board Meeting by:

Rosemary Furfey, Past Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact

Renee Davis, Deputy Director

renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203



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 F–Small Grant Program Administrative Rule Amendments
April 24-25, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report requests board approval on proposed administrative rule amendments to OWEB's Small Grant Program.

II. Background

The Small Grant Program is an easy-to-engage-in, competitive grant program that awards funds for on-the-ground restoration projects. The program responds to a need for local decision-making about watershed restoration opportunities on a timeline shorter than many of OWEB's other grant programs.

At the July 2017 meeting, the board approved the 2017-2019 spending plan for the agency, which included an increase of the cap on small grants from \$10,000 to \$15,000. To increase the cap, rulemaking is required for the Small Grant Program, as the cap stated in the administrative rules is currently \$10,000. Following the July board meeting, a rule waiver has been in place for small grant projects awarded between \$10,000 and \$15,000. In addition to raising the cap on small grants, OWEB staff have identified other areas in the administrative rules for amending. These include:

- Stating that OWEB staff will coordinate with small grant teams to ensure soil and water conservation districts, watershed councils, and tribes are invited to participate on teams;
- Better aligning language in rule with language in statute (ORS 182.162 et seq.) regarding tribal participation on small grant teams by stating participating tribes be federally recognized in Oregon;
- Requiring all members of a small grant team to have met reporting obligations with OWEB prior to entering new small grant team agreements;
- Removing reference to OWEB's "Regular" grant program, and replacing it with OWEB's "other" grant programs; and
- Aligning restoration guidance language with Division 10 Restoration Grants, administrative rules.

III. Public Comment on Proposed Small Grant Program Rule Amendments

OWEB released draft rule amendments for public comment on March 1, 2018. The public comment period was open from March 1 - March 31, 2018 with a public hearing in Salem on March 21. A summary of the written comments received during the public comment period are provided in Attachment A. Staff reviewed the public comments, and made revisions to the proposed small grant program rule amendments, which are found in Attachment B. At its April meeting, the board may only receive public comment on the revisions to the proposed rules that have occurred since the close of the public comment period.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve the administrative rule amendments to the Small Grant Program found in Attachment B.

Attachments

- A. Public Comments Received and Staff Response
- B. Proposed Small Grant Program administrative rules (redlined)

Summary of Public Comments: Small Grant Program Rule Amendments (Division 35)

ATTACHMENT A

| Rules: General Comments | | | |
|---|---|--|--------------------|
| Commenter(s) | Comments | Response | Rule Change |
| Cynthia Care, Friends of Wagner Creek | Supports proposed changes to the Small Gant Program. | OWEB appreciates the support for the amendments to the Small Grant Program. | No |
| Karin Stutzman, Polk Soil and Water Conservation District | Supports proposed changes to the Small Gant Program. | OWEB appreciates the support for the amendments to the Small Grant Program. | No |
| Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee | Supports proposed changes to the Small Grant Program, with the exception of OAR 695-035-0020(4), noted below. | OWEB appreciates the support for the amendments to the Small Grant Program. | No |
| Kelly Timchak, Lower Rogue Watershed Council | Supports proposed changes to the Small Grant Program, and suggests increasing the cap on small grants to \$20,000. | OWEB appreciates the general support for the amendments to the Small Grant Program. In determining the cap on small grants, the OWEB Board open solicitation subcommittee considered increasing costs, trends toward larger projects, and grantee feedback, and found the increase in the small grant cap from \$10,000 to \$15,000 appropriate at this time. The open solicitation subcommittee will continue to evaluate the small grant program to ensure the most optimal cap on individual projects. | No |
| Audrey Squires, Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council | Supports proposed changes to the Small Grant Program, and suggests increasing the amount of funds allocated to each small grant team to accommodate the increased cap on individual projects. | OWEB appreciates the general support for the amendments to the Small Grant Program. While not captured in administrative rule, OWEB currently distributes \$100,000 to each of 28 small grant teams in Oregon. At the July 2017 meeting, the OWEB Board determined that up to \$500,000 in any biennium may be allocated to small grant teams that have utilized 95% of their allocated funding after the first year of the biennium. The open solicitation subcommittee will continue to evaluate the small grant program to determine if an increase in small grant team funding is warranted. | No |

Summary of Public Comments: Small Grant Program Rule Amendments (Division 35)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|----|
| Caley Sowers, Coos Soil and Water Conservation District | Supports proposed changes to the Small Grant Program, with the exception of OAR 695-035-0020(3), noted below. | OWEB appreciates the support for the amendments to the Small Grant Program. | No |
|---|---|---|----|

| Rule: 695-035-0020, Small Grant Program Administered by Small Grant Teams | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|-------------|
| Sub-Section | Commenter(s) | Comments | Response | Rule Change |
| (3) | Caley Sowers, Coos Soil and Water Conservation District | Concerned that requiring all representatives of a small grant team to have met OWEB reporting obligations under earlier agreements may penalize team members who are current on reporting, if another member of the team has reports that are past due. | OAR 695-035-0020(3) refers to the <u>small grant team agreements</u> that are entered into with OWEB once per biennium. It is OWEB policy that all signatories to agreements have met reporting requirements on earlier agreements. OAR 695-035-0020(3) will not delay <u>individual project grant</u> agreements to small grant team members if another team member is behind in reporting. | No |
| (4) | Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee | Concerned that proposed language for tribal participation on small grant teams would exclude the Nez Perce Tribe from participation in the program. | According to OWEB's revised 2018 Tribal Policy, OWEB works with the Nez Perce Tribe along with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon. Consistent with this policy, we agree with the Nez Perce Tribe's comment and have revised the draft OAR 695-035-0020(4) accordingly to read: "Small Grant Teams, in coordination with OWEB, will invite in writing each soil and water conservation district and watershed council located partially or entirely within the Small Grant Area, and each federally recognized tribe in Oregon, <u>and the Nez Perce Tribe,</u> with reservation, tribal, ceded lands or established usual and accustomed areas located partially or entirely within the Small Grant Area to appoint one representative to a Small Grant Team." | Yes |

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Division 35 Small Grant Program

695-035-0010 Small Grant Program

- (1) The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) may provide funding for a locally administered Small Grant Program from its Watershed Conservation Grant Fund. Funds may be allocated for the Small Grant Program in amounts and at times decided by the Board.
- (2) The goals of the Small Grant Program are to:
 - (a) Support implementation of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.
 - (b) Support projects designed to improve water quality, water quantity, and fish and wildlife habitat. Such projects include, but are not limited to, those developed to address Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plans, urban nonpoint source pollution management plans, and the Board of Forestry's Forestry Program for Oregon.
 - (c) Make funds available to local Small Grant Teams to address local priority resource concerns, habitat values, and watershed functions.
 - (d) Encourage landowner participation in watershed improvement by making funds available more quickly than is possible through OWEB's ~~Regular Grant Program~~ [other grant programs](#).
 - (e) Treat the source of watershed health problems through technically sound projects that use proven techniques from one of the approved sources listed in OAR 695-035-0030(3), and that demonstrate benefits to aquatic species, wildlife, or watershed health across all land uses.
 - (f) Encourage partnerships among watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts-~~(SWCDs)~~, and tribes.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2005, f. & cert. ef. 6-8-05; OWEB 1-2011, f. & cert. ef. 10-18-11

695-035-0015 Definitions

- (1) "Small Grant" is a grant of ~~\$40~~[\\$15](#),000 or less for an eligible watershed restoration project awarded by OWEB on the recommendation of a Small Grant Team.
- (2) "Small Grant Team" (Team) is composed of representatives of watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and tribes formed in each Small Grant Area to recommend funding for watershed restoration projects.
- (3) "Small Grant Area" is a geographic area established by the OWEB Board based upon hydrologic boundaries, existing watershed restoration partnerships, and similarities in resource concerns.
- (4) "Program Grant" is a grant from OWEB to a Small Grant Team to recommend as eligible Small Grants of up to ~~\$40~~[\\$15](#),000 within the Small Grant Area.
- (5) "Program Grant Agreement" is a grant agreement between OWEB and a Small Grant Team regarding the allocation of Small Grant funds within a Small Grant Area by the Small Grant Team using OWEB funds.
- (6) "Project Evaluation Committee" (Committee) is a group of Small Grant Team members designated

by vote of the Team to evaluate Small Grant Project applications received and to make Small Grant Project award recommendations based upon the Team's adopted priority watershed concerns and eligible project types. A Team may by unanimous vote decide not to designate a Committee.

(7) "Program Administration" refers to all efforts made by Teams or individual team members on behalf of applicants or the Small Grant Team prior to a project grant award recommendation. No program administration costs may be included in Small Grant project grant awards.

(8) The "Small Grant Fiscal Agent" is responsible for managing all expenses associated with a Small Grant Project and for reporting those expenses to OWEB in a manner consistent with OWEB fiscal reporting standards. Fiscal Agents will be councils, districts, tribes, or entities designated as eligible by the Small Grant Team in their operating procedures. A Small Grant project's eligible fiscal agent will be identified on the Small Grant Project application and in the OWEB Small Grant Project grant agreement.

(9) "Project Manager for the Grantee" is the individual (typically, but not necessarily, the grantee) who will shepherd the project from start to finish. This person will serve as the Team's and OWEB's main point of contact for a project.

(10) "Team Contact" is OWEB's main point of contact for the Small Grant Team, and is also the person authorized by the Team to sign OWEB Small Grant agreements.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969 Hist.: OWEB 3-2005, f. & cert. ef. 6-8-05

695-035-0020

Small Grant Program Administered by Small Grant Teams

(1) The OWEB Board may award program grants to eligible Small Grant Teams to enable the Teams to administer a Small Grant Program within a Small Grant Area. A Small Grant Team must submit a program grant application to OWEB on a designated form at times designated by the OWEB Board to be eligible to receive a program grant to administer a Small Grant program.

(2) Small Grant Program funds not used in one biennium may not be carried over by the Small Grant Team to the next biennium unless otherwise determined by the Board.

(3) The Board will only enter into new Small Grant Team agreements once Teams have submitted on a standard OWEB form, and to OWEB's satisfaction, the revised Team bylaws for the coming biennium, a revised list of the Team's priority watershed concerns and eligible project types, a revised Application Evaluation Worksheet, and all [representatives of the Team have met OWEB reporting obligations under earlier agreements. Year Two Status Reports due in the previous biennium.](#)

(4) Small Grant Teams, [in coordination with OWEB](#), will invite in writing each soil and water conservation district ([SWCD](#)) and watershed council located partially or entirely within the Small Grant Area, and each [federally recognized tribe in Oregon, and the Nez Perce Tribe, with reservation, tribal, ceded lands or established usual and accustomed areas](#) ~~reservation, tribal, aboriginal, or ceded lands, or usual and accustomed sites~~ located partially or entirely within the Small Grant Area to appoint one representative to a Small Grant Team. Participation on a Team is voluntary. A Small Grant Team must have at least one actively participating watershed council representative and one soil and water conservation district representative to be eligible to allocate Small Grant funds. Each eligible Team may receive a program grant from OWEB to allocate Small Grant Project awards of up to ~~\$40~~[\\$15](#),000 for eligible watershed restoration projects consistent with local priority watershed concerns and eligible project types adopted by the Team.

(5) Members of each Small Grant Team are encouraged to invite individuals with expertise in a watershed restoration discipline or other watershed restoration interests to consult with the Team on its priorities, program elements, and recommendations for project grant awards.

(6) The OWEB Board will establish Small Grant Areas for the Small Grant Program. The boundaries of the Small Grant Areas will be drawn based upon hydrologic boundaries, existing watershed restoration partnerships, and similarities in resource concerns. Only one Small Grant Team may administer a Small

Grant Program in each Small Grant Area. A copy of the Small Grant Area map is available upon request from OWEB and can also be viewed on the OWEB website.

(7) A Small Grant Team may petition the OWEB Board to adjust the boundaries of Small Grant Areas. If a Team has not been formed in a Small Grant Area, an organization eligible to appoint a member to a Small Grant Team may petition the Board to adjust the boundaries of Small Grant Areas. Written approval from all Small Grant Teams affected, or if a Small Grant Team has not been formed, all entities eligible to appoint a member to the Small Grant Team in that area, is required before a boundary adjustment petition may be filed with the Board.

(8) The OWEB Board will consider all boundary-adjustment petitions once a biennium at the time it considers reauthorizing Small Grant Program funds for the next biennium. The OWEB Board may choose to consider a boundary adjustment upon a valid motion by Board members, without petition by a Small Grant Team or organization that is an eligible Small Grant Team member. However, the OWEB Board will consult with affected Small Grant Teams, and if a Team has not been formed, eligible Team members in the area before considering the boundary adjustment. A decision by the OWEB Board to approve a boundary adjustment will consider one of the following:

(a) The current Small Grant Area boundaries fragment existing watershed restoration partnerships; or
The current Small Grant Area boundaries fragment hydrologically connected areas or ecologically similar landscapes in a way that would make setting local restoration priorities difficult; or

(b) The current Small Grant Area boundaries encompass many different limiting factors for water quality, water quantity, and fish and wildlife habitat. Adjusting boundaries would improve the ability of watershed restoration partners to focus their efforts on the limiting factors with which they have expertise.

(9) Prior to submitting a program grant application to OWEB, the Small Grant Team will adopt the following program elements that will be attached as part of the program grant application:

(a) Rules of operation for administration of the Small Grant Team and the Small Grant Program, including:

(A) Rules governing decision-making and membership;

(B) Application processing and project grant agreement procedures;

(C) Designation of a Team contact, and a member with authority to sign project grant agreements on behalf of the Small Grant Team;

(D) Record keeping;

(E) Processes and criteria for recommending project grant awards;

(F) Processes for evaluating the technical feasibility of projects;

(G) Processes and formats for biennial reporting;

(H) Entities, in addition to watershed councils, soil and water conservations districts, and tribes, designated by the Small Grant Team as being eligible fiscal agents; and

(I) Application acceptance windows.

(b) Priority watershed concerns to be addressed by the Small Grant Team;

(c) A list of project types most likely to effectively address the local watershed concerns adopted by the Small Grant Team. This list must be consistent with the list of eligible project types in OAR 695-035-0050(4). Teams wishing to add project types not on the list need to petition OWEB for their eligibility in their Small Grant Area. The proposed project type needs to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the OWEB Director a clear watershed benefit for the Small Grant Area. It must also be consistent with the Team's adopted priority watershed concerns, and must be referenced to one of the approved technical guidance sources listed in OAR 695-035-0030(3).

(10) The program elements adopted by the Small Grant Team will be included as an attachment to the program grant application to OWEB from the Small Grant Team. A program grant to a Small Grant Team

to administer a Small Grant Program will not be awarded until the Team has adopted the required program elements.

(11) In identifying priority watershed concerns, the Small Grant Team will consider current information on the condition of the watershed and its limiting factors to support native fish and to meet water quality standards. The priority watershed concerns should be adopted with reference to documents addressing the limiting factors to:

(a) Clean Water Act standards as identified in Total Maximum Daily Load Water Quality Management Plans and in Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plans; and

(b) Watershed assessments and action plans, other watershed analyses, the Oregon Forest Practices Act, and soil and water conservation district annual work plans and long-range business plans. Priority watershed concerns and the list of eligible project types adopted by the Small Grant Team will address the source of watershed health problems, and not the effects.

(12) Small Grant Teams may designate members of the Team as a Project Evaluation Committee to evaluate Small Grant Project applications in lieu of the entire Team. If established, this Committee will have equal representation from soil and water conservation district and watershed council Team members. The Team, or if designated, its Committee, will select applications to recommend for funding based on its priority watershed concerns, eligible project types, and the technical merits of the project. The Small Grant Team, or if designated, the Committee, is encouraged to invite technical experts to assist in the evaluation of proposed projects.

(13) Each Small Grant Team will develop application evaluation criteria that will be based on the questions asked in the application, as well as on additional evaluation considerations listed by Teams in their operating procedures. Evaluation criteria will be attached to a Team's operating procedures. Teams will make available to applicants the evaluation criteria along with the Team's list of priority watershed concerns and eligible project types.

(14) Small Grant Teams will establish in their operating procedures the terms by which they receive and act on applications. At a minimum, Teams will establish two-week windows four times in the State fiscal year (July 1 through June 30) during which they or their designated committee will receive applications. Teams may also accept applications at any time throughout the State fiscal year. All Teams must act within 30 days of receiving a complete application.

(15) Small Grant Teams will write their own project grant agreements, using an OWEB-provided template. Teams will create one original grant agreement and secure all relevant signatures before forwarding it to OWEB for final signature. In case of discrepancy, the OWEB signed original supersedes all other signed copies. The OWEB Director reserves the discretion to alter this arrangement as necessary.

(16) OWEB has 20 working days after receipt of the application materials to verify that the approved application is consistent with the Team's local priorities and with OWEB's statutes and administrative rules. Upon verification, OWEB will return fully executed copies of the project grant agreement to the Team Contact, listed in the Team Bylaws. OWEB will keep the original project grant agreement on file, and the Team Contact will be responsible for providing copies to all signatories. Signatories to the grant agreement will include the Grantee; Landowner; Team Contact; a representative of OWEB; and a Fiscal Agent for the Grantee, if different from the Grantee. A project grant agreement is not valid until all signatories to the agreement have signed. Project grant agreements must be signed within 90 days of the first signature on the grant agreement, or they will be considered void. Work will not begin on a project until a project grant agreement is valid. OWEB will make Small Grant Project award payments directly to the fiscal agent designated in the Small Grant Project agreement.

(17) Project maintenance and effectiveness monitoring are the responsibility of the landowner. OWEB will not pay for either, and applicants may not use any planned post-project maintenance and effectiveness monitoring as match for the OWEB project grant. However, applicants may budget for plant establishment (i.e., weeding and watering of plants over time to improve chances of successful establishment) in the Small Grant Project application, or they may put the amount estimated for plant establishment toward the required 25 percent match. OWEB will pay for no more than two years of

post-project plant establishment, or up to \$1,000 for two years, which is paid for in the final payment request.

(18) The Small Grant Team will be responsible for providing the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the Soil and Water Conservation Commission with a summary Biennial Report, due no later than 60 days after the close of each OWEB biennium that:

(a) Addresses:

(A) How the Team's funded projects demonstrated clear watershed benefit to aquatic species, wildlife, or watershed health.

(B) Which specific projects met the Team's high-priority watershed concerns that it identified for the biennium (show award amounts for each project).

(C) Which specific projects the Team awarded for other priority watershed concerns (show award amounts for these projects, as well).

(b) Evaluates the effectiveness of the Team's:

(A) External interactions with landowners, applicants, Grantees, project partners, and OWEB Small Grant Program staff (i.e., the challenges that faced the Team with each of these groups and whether the Team was successful at resolving them).

(B) Internal interactions with each other (i.e., the challenges that faced the Team and whether the Team was successful at resolving them).

(c) Attaches the following:

(A) Tracking sheets for recommended and denied applications for the current biennium.

(B) Revised operating procedures, priority watershed concerns, eligible project types for the coming biennium, and application evaluation worksheet, if any.

(19) The OWEB Director may authorize an independent performance audit of any Small Grant Team, and if the Director determines the Team is not complying with the rules of the Small Grant Program, may restrict future Team funds.

(20) Small Grant Teams will retain for a period of five years unsuccessful applications and copies of successful applications, as well as meeting records.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2005, f. & cert. ef. 6-8-05

695-035-0030

Small Grant Program Application

(1) A Small Grant applicant may be a tribe, watershed council, or soil and water conservation district. These entities may act on behalf of private landowners, not-for-profit institutions, schools, community colleges, state institutions of higher education, independent not-for-profit institutions of higher education, local agencies, state agencies, or federal agencies.

(2) When reviewing applications, Team members will abide by the same conflict of interest standards that apply to Oregon's public officials, as detailed in ORS 244.020.

(3) Small Grant Project applications submitted to the Small Grant Team will include a completed application form provided by OWEB, and will use technical guidance from at least one of the sources listed below in this subsection. Small Grant Project applicants will cite in the application the practice code(s), or the page number and paragraph, for the technical guidance source listed. The Small Grant Team will verify the citation. If technical guidance and standards for a project are not available from one of these sources, the project is not eligible for funding under the Small Grant Program.

- (a) The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office Technical Guide, and local cost share list.
 - (b) A Guide to Placing Large Wood in Streams (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Department of Forestry, 1995).
 - (c) The Oregon Road/Stream Crossing Restoration Guide (Oregon Department of Forestry, Spring 1999).
 - (d) Forest Practices Technical Note No. 4: Fish Passage Guidelines for New and Replacement Stream Crossing Structures (Oregon Department of Forestry, May 10, 2002).
 - (e) Forest Practices Technical Note No. 5: Determining the 50-Year Peak Flow and Stream Crossing Structure Size for New and Replacement Crossings Structures (Oregon Department of Forestry, May 10, 2002).
 - (f) The Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Guidebook for Local Government (Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, 1994).
 - (g) Urban Subwatershed Restoration Manual Series #4: Urban Stream Repair Practices (Center for Watershed Protection, November 2004).
 - (h) Tribal Natural Resource Plans or Water Plans on Tribal Trust Lands.
- (4) Only watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, tribes, and entities designated as eligible by the Small Grant Team in their operating procedures may serve as fiscal agents for a Small Grant Project.
- (5) The application budget is the Small Grant applicant's statement of how OWEB funds will be spent. Should the Small Grant Team approve the application for funding, the Grantee will only be able to bill OWEB for the line items appearing in the OWEB column in the application budget. Changes in line item amounts are permissible, with the exception of Project Management, which may change only with prior approval from OWEB. Grantees wishing to add new line items must also request prior permission from OWEB.
- (6) The applicant, landowner, and fiscal agent will sign the application. Teams may write a separate cooperative agreement where multiple landowners are involved. Teams will keep the original cooperative landowner agreement on file, and all signatories, plus OWEB, will be provided copies. Project funds will not be released until OWEB has a signed copy of the cooperative landowner agreement.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2005, f. & cert. ef. 6-8-05

695-035-0040

Small Grant Program Grants

- (1) Prior to the disbursement of any Small Grant Project funds, the Grantee must sign a Small Grant Project agreement containing such terms and conditions as may be deemed necessary by the OWEB Director to ensure that the expected benefits of the project are realized, and that applicable legal requirements and any special conditions of the Board with regard to particular grants are met.
- (2) Each Small Grant Project awarded will be limited to a maximum of \$150,000 per project, per landowner, per OWEB fiscal year, including technical assistance and fiscal administrative expenses.
- (3) The Board will only enter into new Small Grant project agreements with a grantee once that grantee has addressed to OWEB's satisfaction all active Small Grants with outstanding advances and all expired Small Grants with outstanding advances.
- (4) Fiscal administrative expenses included in each Small Grant Project may not exceed 10 percent of the OWEB grant amount for direct project costs. However, project grants for a total of \$2,000 or less may include fiscal administrative expenses up to \$200, not to exceed the total amount awarded.

- (5) A change in fiscal agent requires an amendment to the original grant agreement, and must be requested in writing of the OWEB Small Grant Program.
- (6) Travel expenses directly related to project implementation are eligible for funding under the Small Grant Program, subject to OWEB review and approval. Travel expenses will be reimbursed only in accordance with rates approved by the Department of Administrative Services and which are in effect at the time the expense was incurred. The Grantee must identify the reason or purpose for all travel expense reimbursement requests. No mileage reimbursement will be paid for the use of motorcycles or mopeds. The Small Grant Program will not reimburse for meals, lodging, or out-of-state travel.
- (7) Equipment purchases directly related to project implementation are eligible for funding under the Small Grant Program, subject to OWEB review and approval. However, OWEB discourages the use of limited Small Grant Project funds on equipment purchases, and instead encourages Teams to work with applicants to obtain equipment through other means, such as borrowing or renting. Following project completion, equipment purchased with OWEB funds will reside with any of the following: watershed council, soil and water conservation district, tribe, local government, or a school district. These entities will make the equipment available to each other at no cost, other than nominal maintenance costs.
- (8) Small Grant Project award recipients must provide evidence of at least 25 percent secured match for the Small Grant Project award prior to disbursement of grant funds by including a signature of commitment from the entity(ies) providing match on the OWEB Secured Match Form. Match must be current and specific to the Small Grant Project. The same match may not be used for multi-phased projects, unless it is divided among the phases. Applicants may attach the completed match form to their application or they may submit the form with their first grant award payment request. Disbursement of the final grant award payment requires evidence of actual match contributed, shown on the Actual Match Form. Match may include labor, volunteer time, technical assistance, materials or services provided, donated property, or cash. OWEB funding may not be used as match for a Small Grant Project funded by OWEB.
- (9) All Small Grant Projects will be completed within 24 months from the date of Team approval of the application. No project completion extensions beyond 24 months will be allowed.
- (10) Upon project completion, the Grantee will provide OWEB and the Small Grant Team with a copy of the Project Completion Report and color photographs with captions. Final project accounting and reporting are due no later than 60 days following the project completion date.
- (11) The following standards will be applied to each Small Grant Project payment:
 - (a) OWEB will not pay for activities that were not covered under the project grant agreement, or did not receive prior approval from OWEB per OAR 695-035-0030(5).
 - (b) Each Small Grant award will be disbursed in no more than two payments.
 - (c) The Board will retain ten percent of project funds until the final report, as required in the grant agreement, has been approved.
 - (d) The first payment may consist either of an advance of up to 60 percent of the Small Grant award upon presentation of a detailed estimate of expenses for a specified time period, or of a reimbursement of expenses to date upon presentation of receipts and invoices.
 - (e) No funds will be released until evidence is submitted to OWEB that all required permits and licenses for the project have been granted.
 - (f) Receipts for the full advance amount are due within 120 days of the date OWEB issues the advance check.
 - (g) The second and final payment will not be disbursed until OWEB receives from the Grantee through the designated fiscal agent:
 - (A) Receipts and invoices for expenditures of previous fund releases, and receipts and invoices supporting the new fund release request;
 - (B) A spreadsheet documenting all project expenses;

- (C) A completed Actual Match Form, showing all project match, which must total at least 25 percent of the amount of OWEB funds actually spent on the Small Grant Project;
- (D) A satisfactory Project Completion Report and color photographs with captions of the project site; and
- (E) A current Oregon Watershed Restoration Reporting Form, showing among other things, evidence of actual match contributed.

(12) Two years following receipt by OWEB of the project completion report, the individual designated in the project application will provide OWEB and the local Small Grant Team with a Year-Two Status Report. Applicants may budget for this as an expense to OWEB in the application (not to exceed \$200), or they may put the amount toward the required 25 percent match funds by showing the amount in the cost share column.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2005, f. & cert. ef. 6-8-05

695-035-0050

Eligible Small Grant Projects

- (1) The Small Grant Program will fund only those projects that:
 - (a) Demonstrate in the Small Grant Project application a clear watershed benefit to aquatic species, wildlife, or watershed health.
 - (b) Are consistent with the local Small Grant Team's priority watershed concerns, as identified in their program grant agreements with OWEB.
 - (c) Adhere to OWEB administrative rules, OAR 695-005-0010–695-005-0060 and 695-050- 0010–695-050-0050.
 - (d) Implement a project to restore, enhance, or protect native fish or wildlife habitat, watershed or ecosystem functions, or water quality.
 - (e) Are implemented in a manner [that follows professionally accepted restoration approaches resulting in ecological or watershed benefits consistent with the Oregon Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Guide](#).
 - (f) Use and clearly identify in the small grant application technical guidance from at least one of the approved sources in OAR 695-035-0030(3), and cite in the application the practice code(s), or the page number and paragraph, for the technical guidance source listed.
 - (g) Where applicable, have been approved for technical sufficiency by the appropriate state agency, or by the appropriate tribal government for projects on Tribal Trust Lands.
- (2) Small Grant Projects to be completed in phases on the same property are eligible for Small Grant Project funding, provided only one phase is submitted for funding consideration per OWEB fiscal year, and provided all phases occur at different locations on the property. In general, OWEB encourages multi-phased project applications to be submitted through ~~other the~~ OWEB [grant programs](#) ~~Regular Grant Program~~.
- (3) Teams must select from the following list when identifying priority watershed concerns for their Small Grant Area:
 - (a) Instream Process and Function;
 - (b) Fish Passage;
 - (c) Urban Impact Reduction;
 - (d) Riparian Process and Function;

- (e) Wetland Process and Function;
 - (f) Upland Process and Function;
 - (g) Water Quantity and Quality/Irrigation Efficiency;
 - (h) Road Impact Reduction.
- (4) The following project types are eligible for funding. Teams are encouraged to be strategic in identifying eligible project types in an effort to better support salmon recovery objectives and Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plans. Teams may petition OWEB to allow project types not appearing on the list, as described in OAR 695-035-0020(9)(c).
- (a) Instream Process and Function.
 - (A) Improve Instream Habitat: place large wood, boulders, or salmon carcasses;
 - (B) Manage Erosion: bioengineer stream banks, slope stream banks, or develop water gaps, streambank barbs;
 - (C) Eradicate or Control Exotic Aquatic Species.
 - (b) Fish Passage.
 - (A) Remove Irrigation or Push-Up Dams: install alternatives (e.g., infiltration galleries, point-of-diversion transfers) or convert from gravity diversion to pumps;
 - (B) Remove and/or Replace Culverts (as a condition of funding, such projects require ODFW or ODF technical review and approval, or tribal government review and approval for projects on Tribal Trust Lands, using a standard OWEB form; and for culverts under state roads, a 50 percent ODOT match);
 - (C) Remove or Replace Stream Crossings (as a condition of funding, such projects require ODFW or ODF technical review and approval, or tribal government review and approval for projects on Tribal Trust Lands, using a standard OWEB form).
 - (c) Urban Impact Reduction.
 - (A) Install Stormwater Runoff Treatments (e.g., create bioswales, pervious surfaces, native plant buffers, green roofs);
 - (B) Create Off-Channel Flood Storage;
 - (C) Employ Integrated Pest Management.
 - (d) Riparian Process and Function.
 - (A) Manage Nutrient and Sediment Inputs through managed grazing (e.g., fencing and developing off-channel watering) and plantings;
 - (B) Manage Vegetation: plant or seed native riparian species, propagate native riparian plants, or control weeds in conjunction with a restoration project;
 - (C) Employ Integrated Pest Management.
 - (e) Wetland Process and Function.
 - (A) Manage Nutrient and Sediment Inputs: fence out livestock or develop alternative watering sites;
 - (B) Manage Vegetation: control weeds (in conjunction with a restoration project), or plant native wetland species;
 - (C) Restore Wetlands: excavate or remove fill, or eliminate drainage structures;
 - (D) Employ Integrated Pest Management.
 - (f) Upland Process and Function.
 - (A) Manage Erosion on Agricultural Lands: terrace land; employ laser leveling; create windbreaks; install water and sediment control basins (WASCBs); develop filter strips/grassed waterways; manage

mud (e.g., gravel high-use areas, develop paddocks); seed bare areas (OWEB may require a grazing management plan, if appropriate, prior to release of funds. For post-fire areas, seed only where natural regeneration is unlikely — e.g., on slopes of 30 percent or more — or where it can be demonstrated that seeding would retard or prevent the spread of noxious weeds); or reduce tillage.

(B) Manage Nutrient and Sediment Inputs to Streams through the management of grazing, vegetation cover, animal waste, or irrigation runoff.

(C) Manage Vegetation: prescribed burning, except when conducted as part of a commercial harvest; non-commercial thinning; control/remove juniper (except late-seral/old growth); plant or seed (native upland species or native beneficial mixes preferred); or control weeds (in conjunction with a restoration project). Projects for prescribed burning to reduce fuel loads require ODF technical review and approval, or tribal government review and approval for projects on Tribal Trust Lands, using a standard OWEB form.

(D) Manage Wildlife: install water guzzlers.

(E) Employ Integrated Pest Management.

(g) Water Quantity and Quality/Irrigation Efficiency.

(A) Recharge Groundwater: roof water harvesting;

(B) Implement Irrigation Practices (e.g., pipe existing ditch, install drip or sprinkler systems, install automated soil moisture sensors where water and electrical savings can be documented, or recover or eliminate tail water). Such projects must either not adversely impact the current level of groundwater in a Groundwater Management Area, or must measurably reduce the diversion of water at the point of diversion. As a condition of funding, irrigation efficiency projects require local watermaster technical review and approval, or tribal government review and approval for projects on Tribal Trust Lands, using a standard OWEB form.

(h) Private Road Impact Reduction.

(A) Decommission Roads;

(B) Improve Surface Drainage: surface road drainage improvements, gravel surfacing, stream crossings.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2005, f. & cert. ef. 6-8-05; OWEB 1-2011, f. & cert. ef. 10-18-11

695-035-0060

Ineligible Small Grant Projects

(1) The Small Grant Program will not fund projects that:

(a) Do not demonstrate a clear watershed benefit to aquatic species, wildlife, or watershed health.

(b) Are not consistent with the local Small Grant Team's priority watershed concerns, as identified in their program grant agreements with OWEB.

(c) Do not adhere to OWEB administrative rules: OAR 695-005-0010–695-005-0060, 695-035- 0010–695-035-0070, and 695-050-0010–695-050-0050.

(d) Do not implement a project to restore, enhance, or protect native fish or wildlife habitat, watershed or ecosystem functions, or water quality.

(e) Do not use and clearly identify in the small grant application technical guidance and standards from one of the approved sources listed in OAR 695-035-0030(3).

(f) Are at the same location as, and are identical to, projects that have already been funded, are

currently being funded, or are currently being considered for funding through either the Small Grant Program or ~~other~~ the OWEB [grant programs-Regular Grant Program](#).

- (2) The following project types are ineligible for funding through the Small Grant Program:
- (a) Project planning and design not done in conjunction with the implementation of funded restoration or enhancement activities.
 - (b) Routine maintenance.
 - (c) Trash removal.
 - (d) Fish screens and trash racks.
 - (e) Tide gate removal, replacement, or installation.
 - (f) Constructed stream bank armoring.
 - (g) Development of off-channel watering systems not done in conjunction with fencing a riparian area or managing nutrient and sediment inputs in upland areas.
 - (h) Pond cleaning and pond creation (does not include off-channel watering systems and pump-back systems).
 - (i) Residential landscaping not done in conjunction with the implementation of funded riparian restoration or enhancement activities.
 - (j) Weed control not done in conjunction with the implementation of funded restoration or enhancement activities.
 - (k) Projects required as a condition of a local, state, or federal permit, order, or enforcement action (e.g., mitigation projects, manure storage and management projects that are required by a permit from ODA).
 - (l) Irrigation practices that adversely impact the current level of groundwater in a Groundwater Management Area, or do not measurably reduce the diversion of water at the point of diversion.
 - (m) Irrigation water conservation projects that propose any of the following activities:
 - (A) Irrigation system maintenance or renovation of existing pipe.
 - (B) Restoring a system that has deteriorated due to lack of maintenance and/or inadequate design.
 - (C) Portable pipe (does not include gated pipe) or ditch cleaning.
 - (D) Electrical costs resulting from conversion to pump from flood irrigation.
 - (n) Western juniper management that involves the removal of late-seral/old growth juniper.
 - (o) Reforestation or tree planting on lands following a commercial harvest.
 - (p) Prescribed burning when conducted as part of a commercial operation.
 - (q) Commercial thinning. Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2005, f. & cert. ef. 6-8-05; OWEB 1-2011, f. & cert. ef. 10-18-11

695-035-0070

Periodic Review and Evaluation of the Small Grant Program

Once a biennium, and in consultation with representatives of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, tribes, and Small Grant Teams, OWEB will review annual reports submitted by Small Grant Teams and evaluate the need for program improvements and administrative rule changes.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2005, f. & cert. ef. 6-8-05

695-035-0080

Waiver of Rules

The Director may waive the requirements of division 35, unless they are required by statute, for individual grants, when doing so will result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Board's grant program. Any waiver granted shall be in writing and included in the permanent file of the individual grant for which the waiver was granted.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item G-1 – Request for increased spending plan funding
April 24-25, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

During the 2018 Legislative Session, OWEB was informed that Lottery revenues had increased to a level that resulted in the agency receiving an additional \$5 million in expenditure limitation for Measure 76 Lottery funding. Staff will discuss options with the board for investing a portion of those funds in the current spending plan.

II. Background

OWEB receives 7.5 percent of state Lottery revenues to operate the state grant fund focused on native fish and wildlife habitat and water quality. Of that amount, 65% is required to go to what is termed as the watershed conservation grant fund. The remaining 35% covers operations for OWEB and a number of other agencies that are responsible for implementing the provisions of the Measure 76 constitutional and statutory language relating to native fish and wildlife habitat and water quality.

Due to the requirement that funds be deposited directly into the watershed conservation grant fund, any increases in Lottery projections directly result in an increase to that fund. Typically this occurs once a biennium, but based on the current increase in projections, the legislature chose to increase the agency's limitation mid-biennium. The total increase in expenditure limitation is \$5 million. This increase was not anticipated by staff or included in the current spending plan.

III. Spending Plan Increases

While revenues are increasing this biennium, the revenue forecast for 2019-21 is not as strong. Because of this, staff propose the board consider increasing the total spending plan by \$3 million, reserving \$2 million of the limitation to include in next biennium's spending plan, though the board may also consider adding additional dollars to the current spending plan in early 2019, if appropriate. Staff recommendations are contained in Attachment A Spending Plan. Increased line items include:

- \$350,000 increase in open solicitation monitoring grants to cover an increased demand in this category as well as some higher cost proposals.
- \$2 million increase in acquisitions to cover an increased demand in this category.

- \$150,000, delegated to the Executive Director, to increase in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) funding for landowners. This program is exceeding estimates for payments.
- \$500,000 for a new 'Strategic Plan Implementation Grant' category. This is outlined and will be discussed further under agenda Item O – Strategic Plan. This request will be outlined at the April meeting, with a final request to create the category at the June board meeting.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve the spending plan as proposed, except for the new Strategic Plan Implementation Grant category, which is being discussed at this meeting, with a request to approve at the board's June meeting.

Staff recommend the board increase the open solicitation monitoring line item of the spending plan by \$350,000.

Staff recommend the board increase the acquisitions line item of the spending plan by of \$2 million.

Staff recommend the board increase the CREP line item of the spending plan by \$150,000 and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of July 1, 2017.

Attachments

A. Spending Plan

OWEB 2017-19 Spending Plan for the April 2018 Board Meeting

| | OWEB SPENDING PLAN | July 2017 Spending Plan | TOTAL Board Awards To- Date | Remaining Spending Plan as of Jan 2018 awards | April 2018 Proposed Board Limitation Increase | April 2018 Proposed Awards | Remaining Spending Plan as of April 2018 |
|----|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Open Solicitation: | | | | | | |
| 2 | Restoration | 28.550 | 8.255 | 20.295 | | 7.794 | 12.501 |
| 3 | Technical Assistance | | | | | | 0.000 |
| 4 | Restoration TA | 3.600 | 0.809 | 2.791 | | 1.035 | 1.756 |
| 6 | CREP TA | 1.125 | 1.125 | 0.000 | | | 0.000 |
| 7 | Stakeholder Engagement | 0.700 | 0.000 | 0.700 | | 0.172 | 0.528 |
| 8 | Monitoring grants | 2.500 | 0.000 | 2.500 | 0.350 | 1.753 | 1.097 |
| 9 | Land and Water Acquisition | | | | | | 0.000 |
| 10 | Acquisition Projects | 6.200 | 0.000 | 6.200 | 2.000 | 5.630 | 2.570 |
| 11 | Acquisition Technical Assistance | 0.300 | 0.000 | 0.300 | | 0.150 | 0.150 |
| 12 | Weed Grants | 3.000 | 3.000 | 0.000 | | | 0.000 |
| 13 | Small Grants | 3.150 | 3.150 | 0.000 | | | 0.000 |
| 14 | Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring | 1.587 | 0.340 | 1.247 | | 0.216 | 1.031 |
| 15 | TOTAL | 50.712 | 16.679 | 34.033 | 2.350 | 16.750 | 19.633 |
| 16 | % of assumed Total Budget | 59.43% | | | | | |
| 17 | Focused Investments: | | | | | | |
| 18 | Deschutes | 4.000 | 4.000 | 0.000 | | | 0.000 |
| 19 | Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat | 2.445 | 2.445 | 0.000 | | | 0.000 |
| 20 | Harney Basin Wetlands | 1.970 | 1.970 | 0.000 | | | 0.000 |
| 21 | Sage Grouse | 2.355 | 2.355 | 0.000 | | | 0.000 |
| 22 | Ashland Forest All-Lands | 2.340 | 2.340 | 0.000 | | | 0.000 |
| 23 | Upper Grande Ronde | 2.417 | 2.417 | 0.000 | | | 0.000 |
| 24 | Capacity-Building FIPs | 1.150 | 0.572 | 0.578 | | | 0.578 |
| 25 | FI Effectiveness Monitoring | 0.750 | 0.000 | 0.750 | | 0.750 | 0.000 |
| 26 | TOTAL | 17.427 | 16.099 | 1.328 | 0.000 | 0.750 | 0.578 |
| 27 | % of assumed Total Budget | 20.42% | | | | | |
| 28 | Operating Capacity: | | | | | | |
| 29 | Capacity grants (WC/SWCD) | 13.547 | 13.547 | 0.000 | | | 0.000 |
| 30 | Statewide org partnership support | 0.450 | 0.450 | 0.000 | | | 0.000 |
| 31 | Organizational Collaborative Grants | 0.400 | 0.327 | 0.073 | | | 0.073 |
| 32 | TOTAL | 14.397 | 14.324 | 0.073 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.073 |
| 33 | % of assumed Total Budget | 16.87% | | | | | |
| 34 | Other: | | | | | | |
| 35 | CREP | 0.600 | 0.600 | 0.000 | 0.150 | 0.150 | 0.000 |
| 36 | Governor's Priorities | 1.000 | 0.875 | 0.125 | | | 0.125 |
| 37 | Strategic Implementation Areas | 1.200 | 1.200 | 0.000 | | | 0.000 |
| 38 | Strategic Plan Implementation Grants | 0.000 | | 0.000 | 0.500 | | 0.500 |
| 39 | TOTAL | 2.800 | 2.675 | 0.125 | 0.650 | 0.150 | 0.625 |
| 40 | % of assumed Total Budget | 3.28% | | | | | |
| 41 | TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan | 85.336 | 49.777 | 35.559 | 3.000 | 17.650 | 20.909 |
| 42 | OTHER DISTRIBUTED FUNDS IN ADDITION TO SPENDING PLAN DISTRIBUTION | | | | | | |
| 43 | Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - PCSRF | 10.450 | 10.450 | 0.000 | | | 0.000 |
| 44 | Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership | 0.309 | 0.309 | 0.000 | | | 0.000 |
| 45 | Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF | 0.500 | 0.500 | 0.000 | | | 0.000 |
| 46 | PSMFC-IMW | 0.438 | 0.438 | 0.000 | | | 0.000 |
| 47 | PSMFC-Coho Habitat Tools | 0.166 | 0.166 | 0.000 | | | 0.000 |
| 48 | Natural Resources Conservation Svc-CREP TA | 0.250 | 0.250 | 0.000 | | | 0.000 |
| 49 | TOTAL | 12.113 | 12.113 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 50 | TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Distributed Funds | 97.449 | 61.890 | 35.559 | 3.000 | 17.650 | 20.909 |



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item G-2 – Fall 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering
April 24-25, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report describes the Fall 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering and funding recommendations. Staff request the board approve the funding recommendations outlined in Attachment D to the staff report, including funding for 59 restoration projects, 22 technical assistance projects, 15 monitoring projects, and 4 stakeholder engagement projects.

II. May 2017 Grant Offering Background and Summary

A. Applications Submitted

The Fall 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering solicited Restoration, Technical Assistance, Monitoring, and Stakeholder Engagement applications. A total of 160 grant applications were received seeking nearly \$17 million. Attachment A shows applications submitted by region, project type, and funding request.

B. Applications Withdrawn

Following the application deadline, two applications (218-6025 and 218-6031) were withdrawn by the applicant prior to review, and one application (218-5043) was determined to be ineligible.

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.

For monitoring applications, following site visits, OWEB facilitated the Oregon Plan Monitoring Team to review and evaluate applications with respect to significance to the Oregon Plan and likelihood of success.

OWEB then facilitated RRT meetings in each region for all grant types offered. Reviewers considered the ecological significance of the proposed project based on the evaluation criteria of proposal clarity, technical soundness, watershed context, capacity of the applicant, and cost effectiveness. 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 forwarded to the board all written comments received from applicants regarding the RRT and staff recommendations.

III. Fall 2018 Grant Offering and Board Policy Decisions

A. Salmon License Plate Projects

At this stage of the biennium, there are not ample revenues to allocate salmon license plate projects in this grant offering. Staff expect that revenue will be sufficient to recommend salmon plate project funding in the Spring 2018 Grant Offering, which will be reviewed by the board at its October 2018 meeting.

B. Sage-grouse Projects

At its April 2015 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 Fall 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering, there are four projects (218-5035, 218-5038, 218-5039, and 218-5049) recommended for funding that meet these criteria, requesting \$505,217. Total funding awarded to sage-grouse projects since April 2015 is \$6,509,619. If the recommended projects are awarded funding from the board, the new total will be \$7,014,836.

IV. Funding Recommendations

The funding recommendations for the Fall 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering are shown in Table 1. Since the board will not yet have considered proposed increases to the spending plan, the Spending Plan Total column below reflects previously approved spending plan amounts.

Table 1: 2017-19 Spending Plan and Fall 2017 Grant Offering Staff Funding Recommendations

| Grant Type | Spending Plan Total | Previously Awarded | Grant Funds Available | Staff Recommendations | Recommended Grant Funds Remaining |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Restoration | \$32,000,000 | \$7,979,680 | \$24,020,320 | \$7,793,978 | \$16,226,342 |
| Technical Assistance | \$4,000,000 | \$808,696 | \$3,191,304 | \$1,034,812 | \$2,156,492 |
| Monitoring* | \$2,750,000 | \$0 | \$2,750,000 | \$1,752,967 | \$997,033 |
| Stakeholder Engagement | \$700,000 | \$0 | \$700,000 | \$172,221 | \$527,779 |
| TOTAL | \$39,450,000 | \$0 | \$30,661,624 | \$10,753,978 | \$19,907,646 |

*Not offered in the Spring Offering

Table 1

A. Development of Staff Recommendations

OWEB staff considered the RRT recommendations and the funding availability in the 2017-2019 spending plan in developing the staff funding recommendation to the board. Attachment B 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. Fall 2017 Grant Offering – Funding Recommendations

Staff recommend the board fund the applications listed in Attachment C.

Attachments

- A. Grant Applications Submitted
- B. RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations
- C. Regions 1-6 Funding Recommendations

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

November 6, 2017 Open Solicitation Offering

Applications Received by Type

| | Monitoring | Stakeholder Engagement | Technical Assistance | Restoration | Totals |
|---------------|------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------|------------|
| Region 1 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 13 | 29 |
| Region 2 | 4 | 1 | 11 | 8 | 24 |
| Region 3 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 16 | 31 |
| Region 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 12 |
| Region 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 25 | 33 |
| Region 6 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 18 | 31 |
| Totals | 24 | 13 | 36 | 87 | 160 |

Dollar Amounts by Application Type

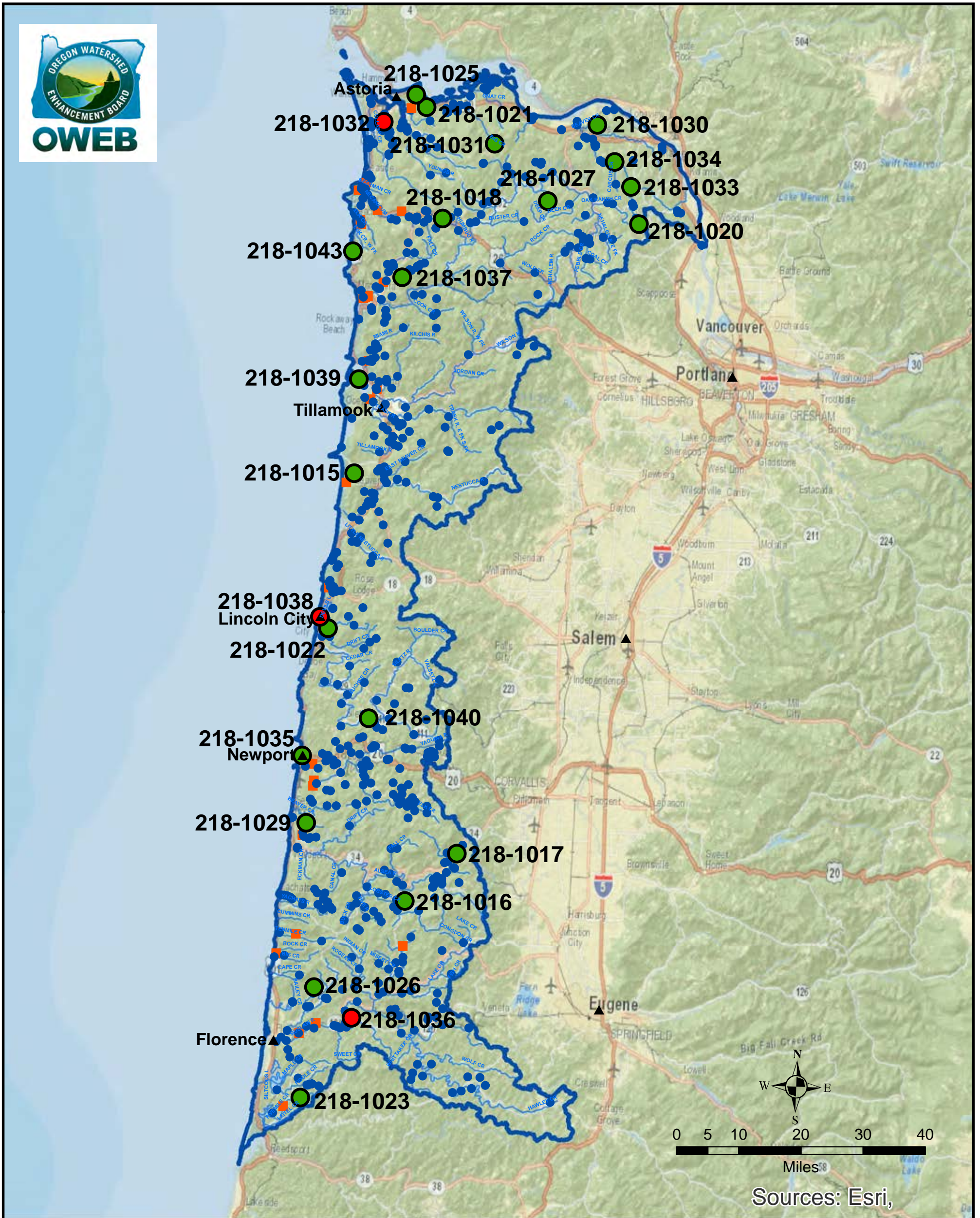
| | Monitoring | Stakeholder Engagement | Technical Assistance | Restoration | Totals |
|---------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Region 1 | 389,711 | 142,373 | 438,538 | 1,379,135 | \$2,349,757 |
| Region 2 | 595,737 | 74,782 | 461,739 | 1,284,674 | \$2,416,932 |
| Region 3 | 150,728 | 137,254 | 346,347 | 2,247,649 | \$2,881,978 |
| Region 4 | 402,590 | 75,000 | 113,624 | 2,197,517 | \$2,788,731 |
| Region 5 | 500,649 | 16,848 | 173,072 | 2,644,917 | \$3,335,486 |
| Region 6 | 860,956 | 119,238 | 221,389 | 1,908,917 | \$3,110,500 |
| Totals | \$2,900,371 | \$565,495 | \$1,754,709 | \$11,662,809 | \$16,883,384 |

**RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations
for the Fall 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering**

| Region | Restoration | | | Technical Assistance | | | Monitoring | | | Stakeholder Engagement | | |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|------------|----------------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------------------|----------|------------|
| | RRT | Staff | % | RRT | Staff | % | RRT | Staff | % | RRT | Staff | % |
| Region 1 | 11 | 11 | 100% | 5 | 6 | 83% | 4 | 6 | 67% | 1 | 1 | 100% |
| Region 2 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 6 | 8 | 75% | 3 | 4 | 75% | 0 | 0 | - |
| Region 3 | 11 | 15 | 73% | 6 | 7 | 86% | 2 | 2 | 100% | 1 | 2 | 50% |
| Region 4 | 5 | 6 | 83% | 1 | 1 | 100% | 1 | 1 | 100% | 0 | 0 | - |
| Region 5 | 15 | 15 | 100% | 2 | 2 | 100% | 2 | 3 | 67% | 0 | 0 | - |
| Region 6 | 11 | 11 | 100% | 2 | 2 | 100% | 3 | 4 | 75% | 2 | 3 | 67% |
| Total | 59 | 64 | 92% | 22 | 26 | 85% | 15 | 20 | 75% | 4 | 6 | 67% |

| Region | Restoration | Technical Assistance | Monitoring | Stakeholder Engagement |
|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Region 1 | \$1,315,045 | \$261,301 | \$343,592 | \$33,443 |
| Region 2 | \$1,104,303 | \$259,710 | \$568,811 | \$0 |
| Region 3 | \$1,565,971 | \$257,660 | \$150,728 | \$51,863 |
| Region 4 | \$1,501,929 | \$38,624 | \$217,770 | \$0 |
| Region 5 | \$1,239,286 | \$98,963 | \$158,500 | \$0 |
| Region 6 | \$1,067,444 | \$118,554 | \$313,566 | \$86,915 |
| Total | \$7,793,978 | \$1,034,812 | \$1,752,967 | \$172,221 |

North Coast - Region 1 Fall 2017 Funding Recommendations



Document Path: Z:\oweb\Technical_Services\Information_Services\GIS\Maps\Review Team Meetings\2017\Fall\Cycle\Projects\Region1_AppFundingStatus_11x17_2017\Fall.mxd
 ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB- PK Wills 03262018

Fall 2017 Applications

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants - 1998-Spring 2017

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- ~ Streams
- ⬭ Region 1 Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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Region 1 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Region 1 - North Coast | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-1023 | Siuslaw Watershed Council | Fivemile-Bell Restoration Project Phase 4 | This project funds Phase 4 of the ten-year, multi-phase, collaborative restoration project in the Tahkenitch Lake watershed south of Florence. Proposed work includes channel reconstruction, valley floor re-grading, large wood placement, and native plant revegetation on a landscape scale to improve habitat for native fish and wildlife. | 256,484 | Douglas |
| 218-1021 | North Coast Watershed Association | John Day Crossing Restoration Project | This project improves fish passage on a tidal reach of a tributary of the John Day River in Clatsop County. Fish passage will be restored to 22 acres of tidal wetlands used by coho, Chinook, and chum salmon. | 177,167 | Clatsop |
| 218-1026 | Siuslaw Watershed Council | Lower North Fork Siuslaw Helicopter Large Wood Placement | This project will improve instream habitat complexity for native fish by adding large wood to 10 miles of stream reaches in the North Fork Siuslaw watershed. | 134,600 | Lane |
| 218-1015 | Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council | Lower Jewell Creek Culvert Replacement | This project will replace the last remaining fish passage barrier on Jewell Creek, a tributary of Sand Creek in the Sand Lake estuary. The project will restore access to 2.7 miles of rearing and spawning habitat for native fish species, including coho, winter steelhead, fall Chinook, chum, and cutthroat trout. | 222,890 | Tillamook |
| 218-1025 | North Coast Watershed Association | Mill Creek Road Decommission | This project will decommission two stretches of active forest road crossing Mill Creek, a direct tributary of the Columbia River located east of Astoria. With the removal of road fill and culverts, fish passage will be restored to 1.6 miles of aquatic habitat. | 45,946 | Clatsop |
| 218-1016 | MidCoast Watershed Council | Little Lobster Stream and Riparian Restoration | This project will place large wood structures and reestablish a riparian area on the lower 2.4 miles of Little Lobster Creek in the Alsea watershed east of Waldport. Working with multiple landowners across a range of land uses, the project directly addresses known limiting factors for salmon by aiming to improve water quality and habitat complexity. | 94,161 | Benton |
| 218-1027 | Upper Nehalem Watershed Council | Deep and Calvin Creek - Salmon Passage Improvement Project | This project replaces two crossings in the Upper Nehalem watershed, restoring fish passage in a priority location to 15 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for native fish, including coho, Chinook, winter steelhead, coastal cutthroat trout, and lamprey. | 172,271 | Columbia |
| 218-1018 | Upper Nehalem Watershed Council | Upper Beaver Creek - Salmonid Habitat Enhancement | This project improves instream habitat complexity by placing large wood structures in Beaver Creek, a tributary in the Nehalem watershed. The wood placements will bring the stream up to habitat benchmark levels, addressing a key limiting factor for coho salmon. | 26,639 | Clatsop |

Region 1 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order (Continued) | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-1022 | Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council | Schooner Creek Riparian Restoration | This project addresses water quality issues on four contiguous properties in the lower Schooner Creek, which is a tributary of Siletz Bay in Lincoln City. The project will restore riparian vegetation and install fencing along 1.2 miles of Schooner Creek. | 58,451 | Lincoln |
| 218-1020 | Columbia SWCD | Dribble Creek Culvert Removal | This project will remove a culvert on an unused forest road and restore fish passage to 1 mile of critical fish habitat for salmonids on Dribble Creek, a tributary of the Clatskanie River. | 73,853 | Columbia |
| 218-1017 | MidCoast Watershed Council | Ernest Creek LWD and Riparian Restoration | This project will address limiting factors for native fish by improving instream habitat complexity and riparian habitat on Ernest Creek in the Alsea watershed. | 52,583 | Benton |
| Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff | | | | 1,315,045 | |
| Restoration Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| | | None | | | |
| Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | 1,315,045 | |
| Restoration Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County | |
| 218-1019 | Lower Nehalem Watershed Council | Grassy Lake Creek Tributary Culvert Replacements and Habitat Enhancement | 52,776 | Clatsop | |
| 218-1024 | Lincoln SWCD | Mill/Slack Creeks Riparian Enhancement Project and Tide Gate Removal | 35,586 | Lincoln | |

Region 1 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-1029 | MidCoast Watershed Council | Beaver Creek Stream and Floodplain Restoration Design | This project addresses watershed function and habitat for native fish within the Beaver Creek sub-basin, a direct ocean tributary south of Newport. Restoration designs will be produced for channel restoration, off-channel habitat development, and large wood placement on four properties. | 66,120 | Lincoln |
| 218-1034 | Columbia SWCD | Clatskanie River Habitat Restoration-Reach 10 Design | The project will produce restoration designs that address limiting factors for Lower Columbia River salmon on the Clatskanie River. The resulting restoration project will improve and increase mainstem, floodplain, and off-channel habitat for salmon and other aquatic species. | 74,800 | Columbia |
| 218-1030 | Columbia SWCD | Stewart Creek Crossing and Habitat Designs | This project will produce designs for a restoration project on Stewart Creek in the Lower Columbia River watershed, a critical location for the recovery of chum salmon. The project will restore passage to over 2 miles of key spawning and rearing habitat for native salmonids. | 35,200 | Columbia |
| 218-1031 | North Coast Watershed Association | Upper Big Creek Road Decommissioning | This project will produce designs for the decommissioning of a legacy logging road encroaching on the floodplain of Big Creek in the Nicolai-Wikiup watershed east of Astoria. Restoration actions will include road obliteration, removal of fish passage impediments, large wood, and planting. | 10,381 | Clatsop |
| 218-1033 | Columbia SWCD | Apiary Road Fish Passage Improvement | This project will produce designs for a fish passage project on the Little Clatskanie River under Apiary Road in Columbia County. The replacement of the crossing will restore access for 10 miles of high quality salmon habitat for spawning and rearing. | 74,800 | Columbia |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff | | | | 261,301 | |

Region 1 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Technical Assistance Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-1032 | CREST | Upper Lewis and Clark Tidal Restoration Project | This project will produce final designs and a geotechnical investigation for a tidal restoration project on the Lewis and Clark River. Tidal processes and associated salmon habitat will be restored on a 29 acre floodplain that is part of Lewis and Clark National Historic Park in Clatsop County. | 71,089 | Clatsop |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | 332,390 | |
| Technical Assistance Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | | Amount | County |
| 218-1028 | Siuslaw Watershed Council | Coastal Native Seed Partnership | | 71,498 | Lincoln |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-1043 | Sustainable Northwest | Arch Cape Community Forest | This stakeholder engagement project will support a collaborative locally driven effort to develop a community forest in the town of Arch Cape in Clatsop County. The community forest will be focused around the headwaters of the town's drinking water source and be managed with stewardship practices that promote watershed function and health. | 33,443 | Clatsop |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff | | | | 33,443 | |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | | Amount | County |
| | | None | | | |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT | | | | 33,443 | |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Not Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | | Amount | County |
| 218-1042 | Siuslaw Watershed Council | Siuslaw River Restoration Accomplishments and Stakeholder Engagement | | 72,153 | Lane |

Region 1 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Deemed <i>Ineligible</i> Prior to Review | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | | Amount Requested | County |
| 218-1041 | Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership | Lower Columbia River Stakeholder Engagement Project | | 55,691 | Columbia |
| Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-1039 | Tillamook Estuaries Partnership | Tillamook Bay Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia (OAH) Monitoring | This monitoring project will develop a pilot program to monitor ocean acidification and hypoxia in the Tillamook Bay estuary, a critical threat to Oregon's coastal ecosystems. Baseline information will be collected and used to leverage existing efforts that currently monitor ecosystem processes in the estuary. | 63,360 | Tillamook |
| 218-1035 | Lincoln SWCD | Mid Coast Monitoring Project | This ongoing monitoring project collects data on fish populations and restoration effectiveness throughout the Mid-Coast basin. Data collected includes aquatic habitat inventories and spawning ground surveys. | 124,317 | Lincoln |
| 218-1040 | Lincoln SWCD | Mid-Coast Basin Water Quality Trend Monitoring Phase III | This project collects water quality monitoring data in the Siletz and Beaver Creek watersheds in Lincoln County to fill critical data gaps. Data will be collected to support ongoing planning efforts, including the Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership, the Siletz Coho Business Plan, and the Mid-Coast TMDL. | 25,689 | Lincoln |
| 218-1037 | Lower Nehalem Watershed Council | Lower Nehalem RBA and LFA Light | This monitoring effort would conduct a watershed scale Rapid Bioassessment and Limiting Factors Analysis of the lower 201 miles in the Nehalem watershed. The project will fill an identified data gap by collecting information regarding salmonid distribution and abundance as well as associated watershed characteristics. | 130,226 | Tillamook |
| Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff | | | | 343,592 | |

Region 1 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Monitoring Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|-------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount | County |
| 218-1038 | Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council | 2018-2019 Salmon Drift Water Quality Monitoring | This ongoing monitoring project will begin to collect data on smaller ocean tributaries and ocean outfalls in Lincoln City. The data collected will be used to determine impairments and serve to inform recreational users of beaches and shellfish harvesters. | 32,928 | Lincoln |
| 218-1036 | Siuslaw Watershed Council | 2018-19 Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program | This project will continue an existing monitoring effort in the Siuslaw River basin, focusing on first flush events and cold-water refugia monitoring during low flow conditions. Continuous monitoring for temperature, dissolved oxygen, and conductivity will be employed at strategic locations throughout the watershed. | 13,191 | Lane |
| Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT | | | | 389,711 | |
| Monitoring Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County | |
| | | None | | | |
| Region 1 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award | | | | 1,953,381 | 18% |
| Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award | | | | 10,753,978 | |

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1015-15944

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower Jewell Creek Culvert Replacement

Applicant: Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council

Basin: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$222,890

Total Cost: \$582,400

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Lower Jewell Creek culvert replacement project is located on Tillamook County owned Sandlake Road north of Pacific City. This culvert is the only remaining fish passage barrier in the Jewell Creek basin with the completion of one upstream culvert replacement project on private lands in 2017 and the other scheduled for summer 2018. Jewell Creek is a tributary of Sand Creek, which is on the northern end of the Sand Lake estuary. Jewell Creek is Sand Creek's most productive tributary and coho, fall Chinook, chum, steelhead, cutthroat, lamprey, salamanders, crayfish and sculpin are all present. Salinity and water temperatures are high in the Sand Lake Estuary. Jewell Creek is an important Sand Lake basin cool water and salinity refugia because its relatively high flows throughout the summer result in cooler water temperatures and lower salinity than other basin tributaries. The existing crossing consists of three corrugated steel pipes installed in parallel at the elevation of the stream. These culverts are partially filled with sediment, undersized and contribute to roadway overtopping. They present a velocity barrier to adults and juveniles under high flow conditions. US Forest Service, in cooperation with Tillamook County and Nestucca, Neskowin and Sand Lake Watersheds Council (NNSL) has developed a design to replace this crossing with a bridge. US Forest Service will take the lead in preparing the project's federal permits. NNSL prepares the county land-use and ODFW fish passage permits and prepares BOLI compliance forms. Tillamook County Public Works secures construction easements with affected landowners. OWEB funds will be used toward contracted construction services, project management and grant administration.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project complements other work in the Jewell Creek watershed and has good connectivity with riparian restoration and fencing projects.
- The Sand Lake watershed is a priority location in which to work to support Oregon Coast coho salmon, and Jewell Creek is important for cold water and salinity refugia. The creek contains excellent spawning habitat for coho, steelhead, and even chum.
- This project addresses the last fish passage barrier on Jewell Creek, with other barriers recently addressed or slated for replacement soon.
- The project is well-leveraged and cost-effective with a high functioning partnership behind the design and implementation. There is a high degree of confidence in the team to implement a successful project.

- The design team addressed concerns of the review team expressed during the site visit, and revised the designs accordingly prior to the review team meeting.

Concerns

- The application did not contain updated designs, and the designs as shown in the application initially raised some concerns with regards to Aquatic Organism Passage. Review team members who attended the site visit were provided with updated designs, which were then updated again between the site visit and the review team meeting. The changes were not translated by the engineer into the drawings and therefore up-to-date plans were not available for review at the time of the meeting.
- Deposition is an issue at this crossing, and there was concern that the proposed regrade of the stream bed to 1% could accelerate the rate that deposition was occurring.

Concluding Analysis

The reviewers appreciated the opportunity to address the last fish passage barrier on the Jewell Creek system, especially within the context of the many other successful nearby projects that had improved riparian conditions, fish passage, and water quality. The project has a strong partnership with a design and implementation team encompassing technical expertise from several different agencies and organizations. The funding for the project was well leveraged, making this a cost-effective approach to restoring full passage for aquatic species to Jewell Creek. There was some concern over the readiness of the designs, especially as they changed several times between time of application and the review team meeting. Overall though, the reviewers appreciated the communicative nature of the project team and understood that a 2019 scheduled implementation would allow ample time to ensure the designers arrive at an acceptable solution to provide passage for all aquatic organisms.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$222,890

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$222,890

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1016-15950

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Little Lobster Stream and Riparian Restoration

Applicant: MidCoast WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Benton

OWEB Request: \$94,161

Total Cost: \$242,078

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project, involving six private and public landowners, is in the lower 2.4 miles of Little Lobster Cr, a 4th order tributary of Lobster Cr in the Alsea Watershed. The 1997 USFS Watershed Analysis and the 2006 Bio-Surveys Limiting Factor Analysis identified two co-limiting habitat factors for salmonids. These landscape scale habitat issues are elevated summer stream temperatures that put Little Lobster Cr on the OR Department of Environmental Quality 303d list for water quality and the long term lack of instream wood complexity that has led to a nearly total loss of stored bedload. The restoration prescriptions identified in those analyses and pursued here are to reestablish conifer in the riparian area for long term wood recruitment to the aquatic corridor, and to place a significant amount of large wood in the channel to trap migratory bedload and begin the process of channel aggradation. Because changes in summer temperature profiles and bedload aggradation are the key objectives, we are proposing a long term effectiveness monitoring in the form of continuous data loggers for documenting pre and post project conditions and the establishment of permanent cross-sections to quantify bedload aggradation. We will also monitor planted tree survival. Project partners include the Siuslaw Collaborative Watershed Restoration Program, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, Weyerhaeuser, and three private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Little Lobster Creek is a producer of chinook, coho, and lamprey. The fish populations utilizing the creek would benefit from the increase in habitat complexity expected from the project.
- The project involves enthusiastic landowners with technical expertise, who are contributing effectiveness monitoring to the effort in addition to facilitating the restoration on their property. The landowners have also been considering a succession plan for the property, thus increasing the likelihood that restoration efforts will have a long lasting beneficial impact.
- The proposed restoration actions will have good ecological benefit and will address legacy land use impacts.
- The application successfully tied the proposed restoration into the limiting factors analysis for the Five Rivers watershed.
- Riparian buffers proposed are of good size for the site and will ensure long-term recruitment of large wood into the system.

Concerns

- The proposal would have benefitted from more details on the proposed road work, culvert, and cross drains.
- There were funds allocated in the budget towards fencing, but no details on the design or type of fencing were provided. Orchard fence, as listed, is not considered to be wildlife-friendly.
- The contribution of the effectiveness monitoring by the landowners was a nice bonus to the project, however, the reviewers would have liked to see more collaboration with local monitoring efforts in order to increase the usability of the resulting data.
- The table and the stated timeline sections of the application didn't line up properly, causing some confusion over the planned timeline for implementation.

Concluding Analysis

The landscape approach to restoration across several different ownerships in the Little Lobster Creek basin was appreciated, and the review team felt that the project would have an excellent ecological benefit to the instream and riparian habitats of the watershed. The large riparian buffers, the significant amount of wood, and the scale of the project as proposed all contributed to a favorable review by the team. There were some minor proposal clarity issues, which would have improved the application had they been addressed. Most significantly, there was little detail provided on the planned road work and effectiveness monitoring which are being included as match on the project. Overall though, the reviewers thought this to be an excellent project with a high likelihood of success and felt confident that the project would achieve the stated goals and objectives.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$94,161

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$94,161

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1017-15956

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Ernest Creek LWD and Riparian Restoration

Applicant: MidCoast WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Benton

OWEB Request: \$52,583

Total Cost: \$77,413

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project is located on the Thyme Garden property on Ernest Creek, a tributary of Crooked Creek in the Alsea River watershed which provides habitat for coho and Chinook salmon, cutthroat and steelhead trout, and lamprey species. Current wood loading on the stream is significantly below ODFW benchmark values, and as a result the creek has reduced complexity, floodplain connectivity, and increased channel incision. This project will improve stream complexity and riparian and aquatic habitat conditions by adding large woody debris and planting conifer species. The project site was the subject of a previous OWEB restoration grant funded in 2002, which restored Ernest Creek into its historical channel. Once returned, the stream did not encounter legacy large woody debris in the historical channel as anticipated and has subsequently experienced channel incision. This project adds a total of 16 large wood structures on 0.7 miles of Ernest Creek in order to increase habitat complexity and floodplain connectivity, and plants conifers on two acres of riparian habitat to increase potential for long term large wood recruitment. Project partners are Thyme Garden, another local landowner, Georgia Pacific, Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership, and Bio-surveys LLC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant has addressed comments from previous reviews in a concise and informative manner. This most recent submittal addressed limiting factors in the watershed in a more comprehensive way and provided new hydrology information for the team to consider.
- The project site has developed into a nursery for salmon rearing and spawning. The manmade pond located on the property has contributed additional rearing habitat and enhanced the numbers of fish being produced by Ernest Creek. The numbers of fish reported from the 0.7 mile project reach, 75 adults per mile, are impressive, and are the highest in the basin.
- It seems unlikely that adjacent and incised Crooked Creek will have restoration potential given the numerous site constraints associated with the highway, thus limiting restoration opportunity in the localized area to Ernest Creek.
- The project addresses issues with the previously implemented 2002 project and the reinforcements to the plug will protect the OWEB investment.
- The project was thought to be cost-effective for the work proposed.

Concerns

- There is some concern that the project is aiming to restore a hydrology that is not possible along that reach. Placing large wood structures within the project site may help locally, but are unlikely to cause a broader reconnection to the floodplain and may not address on a wider reach scale the channel incision issues currently plaguing the watershed.
- The project site is located on a confluence bar, which by nature contains a significant amount of sediment. Placing log structures is unlikely to aggrade the system significantly.
- The presence of the trail immediately adjacent to the stream serves as a site constraint that may limit the ability of the designer to place wood effectively.

Concluding Analysis

The review team continued to have similar concerns with the restorability of the project site given the complexities in hydrology, but they found this most recent submittal improved. The application contained new information on the site's hydrology, fish populations, and how the proposed work will address limiting factors in the watershed. The review team recognized that the project site, despite its anomalies, was a significant contributor of coho to the Crooked Creek system and acknowledged that conducting habitat work nearby in incised Crooked Creek would be a near impossibility due to infrastructure constraints. The continued enthusiasm of the landowner was also acknowledged by the team as a major benefit to this project. The team recommends funding the project, acknowledging that while the benefits to watershed process and function may not be as dramatic as expected, the localized project area would see a boost in habitat complexity that would be welcomed by the native fish species spawning and rearing in Ernest Creek.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

11 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$52,583

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$52,583

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1018-15965

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Beaver Creek - Salmonid
Habitat Enhancement

Applicant: Upper Nehalem WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$26,639

Total Cost: \$57,237

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Beaver Creek is an essential anadromous fish tributary that includes ESA listed Coho and is located in the mid-Nehalem River Basin. This stream has been identified by ODFW as being below habitat benchmarks for LWD material including number of "key" pieces. UNWC in partnership with Weyerhaeuser Western Timberlands, ODFW, and OWEB plan to construct 12 LWD structures comprised of large conifer trees within a 0.7 mile stream reach to help restore stream channel complexity, diversify habitat, and bring the stream habitat metrics LWD materials up to benchmark standard(s).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Humbug basin is a priority location in which to work to support recovery of Oregon coast coho. Upper Beaver Creek is notably lacking in habitat complexity.
- The project has good connectivity to previously implemented projects completed downstream.
- The system has excellent availability of gravel and should respond well to the placement of large wood. The goal of more instream habitat complexity is likely to be achieved by the proposed actions.
- The project will have a positive impact on temperature, another limiting factor in the Upper Nehalem watershed.
- There is easy access for ground-based large wood placement that will limit disturbance of the existing riparian area.
- The stream seemed relatively healthy ecologically besides the lack of in-stream habitat complexity, with ample beaver sign and a good spectrum of riparian vegetation throughout the project reach.
- The project has a high likelihood of success. The logs to be utilized in the project are of the appropriate size, the project implementers are highly experienced with completing similar projects.
- The timing of the project is appropriate with the landowner planning forest operations concurrently with the restoration effort.

Concerns

- Some of the costs in the application seemed high, in particular the hourly rate for large equipment.
- The application would have benefitted from more detail related to the expected geomorphic response of the system to large wood.
- The objectives stated in the application are not measurable or quantifiable.

- Information on the location of the sourced wood would have been helpful.

Concluding Analysis

The reviewers found this to be a relatively straightforward project that would have a beneficial impact on habitat complexity for a high priority stream in the Upper Nehalem watershed. They thought the project was a good opportunity to partner with an industrial timber landowner and appreciated their commitment to engaging in restoration along this reach. The field visit revealed that the stream had a good supply of gravel and reviewers thought the project was proposed in an optimum location in which to place wood and generate maximum ecological benefits for aquatic species. The application suffered a little bit from proposal clarity issues, with some details missing or unclear. Examples include lack of information about the expected geomorphic response and benefit to fish and an explanation of why the project is needed in this location. Having learned more about the project reach on the site visit, the project was found to be a sound investment with an experienced project team likely to implement a successful project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$26,639

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$26,639

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1019-15973

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Grassy Lake Creek Tributary
Culvert Replacements and Habitat Enhancement

Applicant: Lower Nehalem WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$52,776

Total Cost: \$125,704

Project Abstract *(from application)*

LOCATION:Grassy Lake Creek encompasses 5.53 square miles with 39 stream miles, located in the North Fork Nehalem watershed north of Nehalem off North Fork Road. The crossings being addressed in this proposal are on an unnamed tributary to Grassy Lake Creek. There are two undersized culverts both located on Weyerhaeuser property. During the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council's 2015 culvert inventory, these two pipes were identified as "medium" priority candidates for replacement. **PROJECT NEED**This summer (2017) Lower Nehalem Watershed Council reached out to Weyerhaeuser to determine whether any culverts that were identified as candidates for replacement in the culvert inventory lined up with any near-term harvest actions. Weyerhaeuser has a harvest scheduled for Grassy Lake Creek in 2018. Both of these culverts proposed for replacement are on Soapstone Mainline which will be used during harvest actions. **PROPOSED WORK**This project proposes to remove the existing undersized pipes and replace them with appropriately sized culverts. The project also proposes to install large wood in the stream to enhance habitat conditions. **PROJECT PARTNERS/ROLES**1. Lower Nehalem Watershed Council providing project management, photo documentation, project permitting and grant reporting2. Weyerhaeuser providing engineering survey and designs, permitting assistance, construction contracting and construction management 3. OR Department of Fish and Wildlife providing large wood layout and construction oversight

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project supports a unique life history of resident cutthroat trout and if implemented could enhance the resiliency of this population in the lower Nehalem. Brook lamprey are also present in the system above the falls.
- The project appeared straightforward and well-planned.
- The timing of the project is opportune with the landowner planning forest operations in the watershed that would be timed with the restoration work for maximum cost efficiency.
- The project presents a good opportunity to partner with a major landowner in the watershed.

Concerns

- The culverts as designed did not contain elements of Aquatic Organism Passage. All aquatic species, including resident cutthroat, have differing passage requirements that should be considered in the

design of fish passage projects.

- The stream had a 3.2% grade immediately upstream of the crossing with a 6 cfs water velocity and intense peak flows. There was some concern that the placed streambed material may not stay in the culvert unless designed and installed properly. Reviewers would have liked more information on the plan for the streambed material inside the culvert.
- One goal of the project is to connect watershed processes, but with the proposed culverts only sized at 1:1 ACW there was some debate about whether they would be large enough to pass adequate sediment and achieve that goal.
- The application would have benefitted from more information on the gradient up and down stream of the structure, more detail on the site constraints that led to the chosen design alternative, and more hydrologic analysis to justify the smaller sized structures.
- The large wood component of the project would have benefitted from more information on the expected geomorphic response from the large wood placements.

Concluding Analysis

The review team appreciated the opportunity to work in the Grassy Lake Creek watershed and was enthusiastic about the potential to support a unique life history of resident cutthroat trout. They recognized that resident cutthroat, while not anadromous, are highly adaptable and still contribute genetically to sea-run cutthroat populations. They found the project to be straightforward and well planned, and the project team to be a good partnership. Many questions surrounded the proposed designs, however, and notably lacking were Aquatic Organism Passage design elements for the target species involved. The crossings proposed were of a smaller size than is typical for north coast fish passage projects, and while the reviewers understood the rationale behind the chosen alternative they found data backing up the decision to be lacking in the application. More details on stream gradient, hydrology, and expected geomorphic response would have been helpful in evaluating the designs. It is unclear whether the crossings as proposed would have the desired effect on watershed process and function.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1020-15974
Project Name: Dribble Creek Culvert Removal

Project Type: Restoration

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Basin: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$73,853

Total Cost: \$97,536

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed culvert removal is located on Dribble Creek, a tributary of the Clatskanie River. The project site is in Columbia County, outside of St. Helens, OR. Dribble Creek drains an area of 1.42 square miles, 909 acres, flowing 1.78 miles east to its junction with the Clatskanie River. Currently the culvert is located approximately 400 feet upstream from the confluence. It is perched and acts as a fish passage barrier at certain times throughout the year, both during high and low flow periods. The culvert is also significantly undersized and has been identified by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to be a priority culvert for removal. This culvert is on an abandoned logging road and the landowners have determined that it is no longer needed. The proposed project would remove the culvert, create an inset floodplain and stream channel, gradually slope back the existing road grade to allow for the creek to move freely past the obstacle, and plant riparian vegetation in the newly widened corridor. This project will open up just over 1 mile of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed Coho Salmon as well as steelhead. This habitat is primarily spawning grounds with some rearing capacity. The project is a targeted restoration activity supporting the recovery of ESA species identified in the Lower Columbia River Partnership developed through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and would be a collaboration between the Columbia SWCD, ODFW, NRCS, and Hancock Forest Management Group.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Clatskanie is a priority basin in the Lower Columbia watershed and Dribble Creek is a priority location in which to work within the Clatskanie. The location of the culvert to be removed on Dribble Creek is well situated close to the stream's mouth to provide access from the mainstem and replacement will have excellent fish benefit. The project has good connectivity with other nearby projects.
- The project brought a strong partnership together which builds on the NRCS- RCPP effort and involves a key timber landowner in the basin.
- The riparian area along the project reach is healthy, the stream had nice gravels, and the project design will promote natural stream hydrology.
- Removing the culvert as proposed will open up over a mile of habitat.

Concerns

- The application would have benefitted from some more detail. Reviewers found the specifics on the designs, the budget, and the plan for the forest road to be limited.
- The cost of the project seemed very high for pulling out one culvert, especially when compared to other similar projects.
- It was unclear how the project designers arrived at the engineering estimate.

Concluding Analysis

The review team appreciated the opportunity to work in the Clatskanie watershed, recognizing that it is a priority location in which to work in the Lower Columbia. The project site itself is just upstream from Dribble Creek's confluence with the Clatskanie River, making it an ideal location to restore unimpeded fish passage to one mile of spawning and rearing habitat. The project team was experienced and represented a good partnership, and the reviewers felt the project had a high likelihood of success. More detail would have been desirable in the application, particularly a more detailed budget breakdown and clearer plans. The cost-effectiveness of the project was lower than similar projects. Overall though, the reviewers thought that the project would have good ecological benefit and had confidence in the project team to implement a successful project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

10 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$73,853

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$73,853

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1021-16004
Project Name: John Day Crossing Restoration Project

Project Type: Restoration

Applicant: North Coast WS Assn

Basin: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$177,167

Total Cost: \$704,373

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The John Day Crossing Restoration Project is a partnership between Clatsop County, the North Coast Watershed Association and CREST. The proposed project is located on a tidal reach of an unnamed John Day River tributary that passes under North John Day River Road through two 60 inch culverts. The undersized culverts restrict natural hydrologic function and are an artificial fish passage barrier. The road adjacent to the culverts is also annually flooded preventing several residents and emergency services from reaching households. The proposed project involves removing the two culverts and replacing them with a 61 foot bridge and raising the low stretch of the road above the 100-year flood elevation. Post-project, salmonids and other fish species will have unrestricted access to high quality tidal wetlands upstream of the culverts and local residents will have safe passage to and from their homes throughout the year. This project removes barriers to 22 acres of tidal wetlands for ESA listed salmonids utilizing the Lower Columbia River Estuary. Juvenile Chinook, chum, and coho will benefit from newly improved access to this tidal wetland complex. The existing conversion from pasture land back to a more natural wetland habitat reestablishes the upstream area as prime rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids. The removal of the two undersized culverts and replacement with a 61 ft single span bridge will allow for full tidal prism upstream of John Day River Road and remove the fish passage barriers that are currently in place.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project location comprises critical fish habitat and improvements to the crossing will improve fish access to 22 acres of estuarine wetland. Of notable importance is the benefit the project could have to Columbia River chum salmon.
- Tidal restoration is a high priority in the north coast basin and the size of the habitat involved is significant in this area.
- The project team had considered an appropriate suite of alternatives and the application was detailed in describing how the chosen alternative was selected. The detailed design criteria that went into the project was appreciated.
- The partnership surrounding the project was strong and the adjacent landowners supportive. The project was well-leveraged and cost effective.
- The project has clear linkages to the Lower Columbia River recovery plans.

Concerns

- The current crossing may not be a true barrier to all life stages, raising some questions about priority.

Concluding Analysis

The review team appreciated the strong partnership involved in the project, finding the many entities that had joined forces to address the passage barrier to be engaged, thoughtful, and well-prepared to implement a high quality project. Working in tidal wetlands is a high priority for the north coast, and given the scarcity of available estuarine habitats in this stretch of the John Day, reviewers considered 22 acres to be of sizable importance. Many accolades were given to the design criteria considered for the effort, and the application was clear, concise, and included measurable objectives. There was some question about the extent of the barrier in its current condition, but the reviewers agreed that the structure limited passage at certain velocities and that restoring impeded passage could have excellent ecological benefit to aquatic species and would support the goals of the Lower Columbia River Recovery Plan.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$177,167

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$177,167

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1022-16020

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Schooner Creek Riparian Restoration

Applicant: Salmon Drift Cr WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$50,751

Total Cost: \$74,708

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed Schooner Creek riparian restoration project is found southeast of Lincoln City, Oregon on four contiguous properties between Schooner river miles 1.3 and 2.5. This area is within 2.3 miles of Siletz Bay. The land has been pasture for decades with declining riparian habitat quality. Pasture grass growing to the edge of the creek is the predominate floodplain vegetation. Schooner Creek aquatic habitat is 303(d) listed for summer warm water and E. coli. Schooner Creek is home to ESA listed coho salmon, winter steelhead, fall Chinook, and sea-run cutthroat trout. Summer and winter juvenile fish rearing habitats are impaired. This proposed project will restore riparian vegetation along 1.2 miles of Schooner Creek with trees and shrubs planted on 10 acres of riparian area and excluded from livestock grazing. The riparian fence on the downstream Butler property was constructed in October 2017 in partnership with Natural Resources Conservation Service. Sitka spruce and shrubs will be planted on the newly protected riparian area on the Butler property. New smooth wire electric fence will replace the old degraded and non-functional stream-adjacent fence on the three upstream properties, protecting the riparian restoration plants. Streambank sloping will occur on portions of the three upstream properties before fence construction and planting. We also propose placing ten key large wood pieces on a Schooner Creek tributary and would construct two water gaps. The project partners are the four landowners, Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Forest Service, and Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on a previous Technical Assistance grant to the applicant and involves a priority reach in which to work.
- The project involves several key landowners and represents an excellent agricultural partnership in the Schooner Creek watershed, involving a contiguous stretch of 1.2 stream miles within a working landscape.
- The stream is currently 303d listed for bacteria. The proposed fencing and plantings will have a positive impact on water quality.

Concerns

- With the dynamic nature of the stream in this reach, there was some concern that the proposed fence

plan did not provide enough room for the stream to move. NRCS had already implemented fencing on the Buttler property, and it was clear in places that the stream had already eroded up to the fenceline.

- The designs as proposed for bank stabilization and fencing create a risk of failure with limited buffer widths and no large wood to help stabilize the banks.
- The project's budget included limited funds for plant stewardship and project maintenance.
- The project would have benefitted from the addition of more habitat work. Large wood should be incorporated into the design to protect the eroding banks and reduce sedimentation to the stream.

Concluding Analysis

The review team appreciated the opportunity to work along this reach of Schooner Creek, which has been a priority location in which to address water quality issues for some time. They found the partnership and landowner engagement to be impressive, with contiguous properties proposed for riparian and fencing treatments for 1.2 stream miles. The project would benefit from more habitat features, since instream habitat complexity is extremely limited along this reach. There is a degree of risk of failure with trees and fenceline potentially calving off into the stream, given the dynamic nature of Schooner Creek in this reach. In conclusion, this is an important place to work given the complexities of restoration projects on working lands and the opportunity to directly benefit water quality. Additional funds (\$7000 for Contracted Services and \$700 for the additional indirect costs) are recommended to ensure adequate stewardship of the plantings.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Increased with Conditions

Review Team Priority

9 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$58,451

Review Team Conditions

Additional funds (\$7000 for Contracted Services and \$700 for the additional indirect costs) are recommended to ensure adequate stewardship of the plantings.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund Increased with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$58,451

Staff Conditions

Additional funds (\$7000 for Contracted Services and \$700 for the additional indirect costs) are recommended to ensure adequate stewardship of the plantings.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1023-16028

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Fivemile-Bell Restoration Project
Phase 4

Applicant: Siuslaw WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$256,484

Total Cost: \$522,084

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This application is in support of Phase 4 of the ten-year, multi-phase, collaborative Fivemile-Bell Restoration Project (Project). The Project area is located about 10 miles southeast of Florence, Oregon, and includes the sub-watershed of Fivemile Creek of the Tahkenitch Lake basin 6th-field watershed in Douglas County (See Maps 1-4). Phase 4 project actions are focused in Lower Bell Creek, with additional actions planned in Upper Bell Creek and in Middle and Lower Fivemile Creek (Figures 1-7). Tahkenitch Lake is home to the healthiest runs of wild coho salmon in Oregon. The estimated population of returning adults in the winter of 2010/2011 was over 10,000 coho. Tributary streams of Tahkenitch Lake consistently have hundreds of adult coho salmon spawning each year per mile of stream. While strong when compared with coho returns throughout the other Oregon Coast coho populations, historic runs have been estimated near 23,000 (Lawson et al, 2007). Declines in the Tahkenitch Lake salmon runs since the late 1800s correspond to land and resource use actions that reduced the available high quality habitat, including the introduction of warm-water fish species to the lake, the draining and diking of wetlands, the clearing of valley bottoms and channelization of streams to increase available agricultural land, and timber harvest practices. As a result, existing conditions in the Fivemile Creek sub-watershed, the largest tributary to Tahkenitch Lake, were found to have adversely affected coho salmon production and a landscape-scale restoration project was developed (USFS 5MB LMP, 2012). Proposed work in Phase 4 includes channel reconstruction, valley floor regrading and re-contouring, large wood placement, invasive plant control and native plant revegetation. Project partners include the Siuslaw National Forest, the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, the Siuslaw Institute, and the Siuslaw Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds upon a successful multi-year landscape level restoration project with high ecological benefit. It represents a unique opportunity to restore the entirety of a valley basin.
- The Coastal Lakes watershed is an excellent place to work to support recovery of Oregon coast coho, and the project addresses key limiting factors for the species in the watershed. The numbers of salvaged coho juveniles from the project to date have been high, indicating excellent fish use of the project area.
- The project has been highly successful to date, with the project partnership proving to be adaptable, efficient, and cost-effective. The new staff at the Council has improved capacity.

- The previous 3 phases of the project have been accomplished on the expected timeline with minimal delays and have shown great results with regards to restoring wetland soils, hydrology, and native biodiversity.
- This 4th phase of the project will see the removal and re-grading of the stockpiled material on site, and the project team seemed to have a good plan in place for doing so.

Concerns

- The application would have benefitted from some additional detail with regards to the design, particularly with the grading details and quantities of materials.
- Removal of the stockpiled material represented a significant cost within the budget.

Concluding Analysis

The review team had many accolades for this well-known landscape-scale restoration project, understanding that the previous 3 phases had all been implemented on schedule and had achieved the desired ecological goals and objectives expected at this stage of the project. The Coastal Lakes watersheds are recognized as being an ideal place to work to restore habitat for Oregon coast coho salmon, and the project directly addressed one of the key limiting factors for the species -- summer rearing habitat. The adaptive management approach adopted by the project team over the phased implementation was well received by the reviewers. Design details were more limited when compared to similar types of projects, but the level of design is consistent with the other applications submitted for the project, all of which produced highly successful project phases. There is a high level of confidence in the project manager to implement another successful phase.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$256,484

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$256,484

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1024-16038

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Mill/Slack Creeks Riparian Enhancement Project and Tide Gate Removal

Applicant: Lincoln SWCD

Basin: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$35,586

Total Cost: \$77,921

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project is located at the head of tide water (~river mile 1.2) on Mill and Slack Creeks in the Yaquina watershed. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has recognized a "potential concern" from elevated summer temperatures in Mill Creek. The project property is actively grazing cows and there is a lack of native vegetation within the riparian areas. There is a subsided pasture within the tidally influenced area on Mill Creek that has a tidegate blocking tidal flux to 2.6 acres of wetland. This project will remove the tidegate and dike restoring tidal influence to the 2.6 acres of wetland. Dike and tidegate removal will improve access for fish and add 2.6 acres of estuarine habitat for aquatic species. This project will also prepare, plant, protect, and maintain native trees and shrubs on 4.8 acres of riparian area. Maintenance and release of the plantings is scheduled for three years and effectiveness monitoring will take place annually to document survival rates for riparian plantings. The project partners are: the landowner, Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District, The Siuslaw Collaborative Watershed Restoration Program, and Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project location is in a priority location within the Yaquina watershed and improving habitat at the site could have many benefits to anadromous fish species, including Oregon coast coho and chum salmon. With regards to chum, the project area is considered to be the most stable of the mid-coast area.
- The project contains excellent low-gradient habitat and has good potential for coho rearing.
- A portion of the project aims to restore estuarine habitat, a high priority for the north coast basin. This is an excellent opportunity to remove a tide gate and restore tidal function.

Concerns

- The fence plan for the site could still allow access for cattle to the enclosures around the plantings. The goal of the fence plan was unclear. The fence plan appears inadequate to prevent wildlife browse, particularly from elk.
- The proposed fencing for portions of the project at 4' woven wire was not wildlife-friendly and could negatively impact elk calves.
- Cattle on the property would continue to have access to the stream and the riparian portions of the project may not have a positive impact on water quality.

- The plant maintenance portion of the budget at only one visit per year did not seem sufficient to cover the expected maintenance generated from the project.

Concluding Analysis

The review team appreciated the opportunity to work at this priority location in the lower Yaquina, recognizing that the site provided ideal habitat for many native fish species. There is a good partnership with the landowner, who is committed to improving the property for the benefit of native fish and wildlife species. The plan to remove a tide gate and restore estuarine habitat to the southernmost portion of the property generated a high degree of support from the reviewers, who noted that the restoration of tidally influenced marsh habitat was a high priority for the north coast and was particularly lacking in this reach of the Yaquina. The reviewers agreed with the applicant that complex designs were unnecessary for the site and thought the proposed approach for that portion of the project was sufficient.

While the tidal restoration component of the project was met with enthusiasm, the problems with the current fencing plan rendered the project technically unsound. The applicant is encouraged to revisit the fencing plan with the landowner to see if more benefit couldn't be gained from a wildlife-friendly fencing plan that effectively excluded cattle from the plantings and improved water quality within Mill and Slack Creeks.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1025-16039

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Mill Creek Road Decommission

Applicant: North Coast WS Assn

Basin: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$45,946

Total Cost: \$66,590

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project will decommission two stretches of active forest road crossing Mill Creek, a direct tributary of the Columbia River located just east of Tongue Point, approximately 4 miles east of Astoria, Oregon. This project will 1) decommission 1.9 miles of active forest road; 2) remove culverts and fill at 22 road crossings including 7 identified anadromous fish streams and 3 suspected anadromous fish streams - restoring hydrologic function, floodplain connectivity, and fish passage; 3) remove cross drain culverts and restore natural drainage with cross drain water bars; 4) sidecast pullback where it poses a threat to water quality or hydrologic function; and 5) roughen and reseed the remaining roadbed. This project will increase fish passage to high quality spawning and rearing habitat for coho salmon and steelhead that is rich with beaver activity. It will also improve hydrologic function, improve floodplain connectivity, and decrease erosion, thereby improving habitat and water quality. With the removal of these roads, 1.6 miles of stream will have restored fish access and hydrologic function, and this stand of forest will be shifted to a management plan that allows for development of a more complex structure providing better habitat for anadromous salmonids and resident beaver. OWEB funding is sought for project management and contracting to decommission one of the two road sections (V9-V10). Oregon Department of Forestry will provide the contracting of the second section of road (V7-V8) as match to this project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project location is a priority for the Lower Columbia watershed and will support the Lower Columbia Recovery Plan. Mill Creek is a direct tributary to the Lower Columbia River and provides key habitat for Lower Columbia fish species including steelhead, chum, and Chinook.
- The culverts slated for removal are the last remaining barriers to upstream habitat.
- The project adopts a landscape level approach and is complemented by expected management changes on behalf of the landowner to the Mill Creek watershed.
- The project has a strong partnership and the highly experienced project team insures a high likelihood of success.
- The project has good connectivity to other restoration projects nearby, including the recently restored crossing under Hwy 30 and the South Tongue Point property proposed for acquisition.
- The project is extremely cost-effective for the expected ecological benefit of restoring access to an entire watershed.

Concerns

- The amount of sediment released downstream will be significant and there was no evidence that the project design considered the watershed size, scale, and stream gradients when developing BMPs.
- The plan for dewatering and pumping is unclear.

Concluding Analysis

The review team thought that this project's landscape level approach would have a significant beneficial impact to both aquatic and upland habitats. The Mill Creek watershed is a priority location in which to work to address actions in the Lower Columbia Recovery Plan, and the project had good connectivity to other nearby conservation and restoration projects. There was some concern over the expected sediment release and the limited details describing plans for dewatering and pumping, but there was confidence that the project team would further refine the BMPs before implementation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$45,946

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$45,946

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1026-16043

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower North Fork Siuslaw
Helicopter Large Wood Placement

Applicant: Siuslaw WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$134,600

Total Cost: \$1,413,330

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Lower North Fork Siuslaw Helicopter Large Wood Placement Project (Project) plans to add large wood to stream reaches (up to 10 total miles) of the following tributaries to the North Fork Siuslaw River: Condon, Uncle, Billie, Russell, Wilhelm, and Drew Creeks. Project reaches are located in the Lower North Fork Siuslaw 6th-field HUC, in the Siuslaw watershed, on the Central Coast of Oregon (Map 1). Land use practices over the last 150 years have disrupted natural habitat-forming processes that support healthy populations of salmonids, including the delivery and retention of large wood in streams. Sufficient large wood in streams has been identified as a key component of high quality spawning and rearing habitat for Oregon Coast coho. The North Fork Siuslaw has been identified as a high priority sub-watershed for restoration by local, state and federal entities, based on high habitat intrinsic potential and existing anchor habitat characteristics. Streams proposed in this project have been prioritized for restoration actions by the USFS (NF Siuslaw LMP, 2012) and the Siuslaw Coho Partnership (Draft Siuslaw Coho SAP, 2017). Stream surveys in Project streams identified a lack of sufficient wood needed to create and maintain pools, retain and sort sediments, and generate connectivity with the floodplain, key components of high quality winter rearing habitat. Proposed work to address the lack of large wood includes tipping and cutting of 400 trees, most including rootwads, from identified source locations and transporting them by helicopter, then placing them into up to 10 miles of streams in North Fork Siuslaw tributaries. The log jams will be placed and configured to mimic log jams resulting from natural processes. Project partners include the USFS - Siuslaw National Forest and the Siuslaw Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The North Fork Siuslaw is a priority location in which to work under the draft Coho Business Plan Strategic Action Plan being produced for the Siuslaw watershed. The system is a high producer of Oregon coast coho salmon.
- Good habitat is present in the tributaries of the North Fork Siuslaw slated for wood placement, but large wood is clearly lacking.
- The addition of large wood will improve watershed function as well as improve rearing potential.
- The management of the surrounding USFS lands means that long-term recruitment of large wood is possible and likely.

- The application contained a detailed description of where the large wood sources for the project were located.

Concerns

- The considerable amount of match for the project is coming from associated road work and fish passage activities in the watershed, but limited details were provided.
- The application would have benefitted from more discussion on alternative placement strategies considered.

Concluding Analysis

The review team considered this project to be in a high priority location that directly addresses key limiting factors for Oregon coast coho salmon. The landscape scale of the project was appreciated, and excellent ecological benefit in the way of increased instream habitat complexity could be expected as a result. The approach seemed well planned and reviewers appreciated that the large wood locations had been pre-selected and that they were able to view some of those forest stands on the site visit from where the wood would be obtained. More details are needed on the road work component of the project being used as match, as well as an explanation of the chosen alternative of helicopter wood placement. Overall, this is a high priority project that is likely to have a measurable effect on aquatic habitat in the basin.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$134,600

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$134,600

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1027-16050

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Deep and Calvin Creek - Salmon Passage Improvement Project

Applicant: Upper Nehalem WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$155,699

Total Cost: \$322,524

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Deep Creek is a salmonid bearing 6th field HUC sub-basin of the Mid/Upper Nehalem Watershed that confluences with the Nehalem river near the small hamlet of Birkenfeld Oregon. This stream provides off channel refuge and spawning/rearing habitat for ESA listed Coho, chinook salmon, winter steelhead, Coastal cutthroat trout, and lamprey. Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) habitat surveys conducted over the past two decades have documented fish passage and habitat deficiencies within this basin. Upper Nehalem Watershed Council (UNWC) in cooperation with Weyerhaeuser Western Timberlands and ODFW are partnering to address these deficiencies through a proposed two-phased fish passage and habitat restoration approach whereby fish passage impediments will be resolved at five locations during phase I and the fish habitat enhancement needs during phase II.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Deep and Calvin Creeks are both considered to be prime habitat for anadromous fish, including Oregon coast coho salmon.
- Replacing the two structures would improve access to nearly 15 miles of salmon habitat.
- The project benefits from a strong partnership with the landowner. The landowner is willing to consider repairs to a structure solely to benefit fish, since the structure is otherwise in good condition.
- The location of the work on the Columbia River mainline involves a level of difficulty which has made this area a challenging place to work in the past. The contributions of landowner in-kind work and technical expertise make the project possible and there is a degree of urgency to ensure compatibility with planned future harvests.
- The project is cost-effective and has found creative ways to save funds, particularly by securing a used bridge.
- The project partners were responsive in addressing review team concerns at the site visit and provided a simple revision that would meet the design needs.

Concerns

- The designs in the application did not fully consider appropriate measures to meet Aquatic Organism Passage standards. The designs did not contain habitat features and did not show a thalweg.

- The application was lacking some critical details necessary for a fish passage project. There was limited information available regarding the habitat quality and active channel widths, and no longitudinal profile appeared to have been completed at the time of submittal.

Concluding Analysis

The review team appreciated the opportunity to work in Deep and Calvin Creeks, noting that these were both prime coho streams. The enthusiasm of the landowner to engage in this kind of work was also appreciated, with an awareness that working on the Columbia River mainline was challenging due to the high volume of log truck traffic. The two projects when considered together would mean a large amount of fish habitat opened up, with almost 15 miles of mainstem and tributary habitat made available. However, there was considerable concern over the designs expressed during the project site visit, as they did not include typical Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) features and had very limited information on how passage would be ensured through the new structures. In response, the applicant proposed to subcontract a firm specializing in AOP and have them work with the existing structural engineer to redesign the project with more of a focus on fish passage. The review team, recognizing the urgency of the project as well as the high potential ecological benefit, agreed with the approach and voted to recommend additional funds for the design work, bringing the total project cost to \$172,271.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Increased with Conditions

Review Team Priority

7 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$172,271

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Increase the budget by \$16,572 and include project design in the scope of work.

Staff Recommendation

Fund Increased with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$172,271

Staff Conditions

Increase the budget by \$16,572 and include project design in the scope of work.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1028-15955

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Coastal Native Seed Partnership

Applicant: Institute for Applied Ecology

Basin: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$71,498

Total Cost: \$166,608

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Coastal ecosystems are among the most rare and impacted ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest. As a result, the endangered Oregon silverspot butterfly, salmonoids and other species that make their home in these habitats are greatly imperiled. A diverse group of partners, including land managers, restoration practitioners, tribes, conservationists and private landowners, are working together to restore coastal grasslands, estuaries, and other habitats, and to recover the listed species that depend upon them. One barrier to successful restoration in this ecoregion is a lack of diverse, genetically appropriate, native plant materials available in sufficient quantities to implement large-scale restoration projects. This project will bring partners involved in coastal restoration together with native plant materials producers to increase the availability and affordability of native seed to restore Pacific Northwest coastal habitat. The group will develop a seed strategy that will establish a dependable and sustainable supply of native seed that is genetically and ecologically appropriate in sufficient quantities needed to accomplish restoration goals on a landscape scale and to provide a stable marketplace for both growers and land managers.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Coastal prairie is a unique and threatened habitat type, and lack of native seed has been identified as a key limiting factor to successful restoration.
- Native seed has proved challenging to propagate; extra support and oversight in the process might be beneficial.

Concerns

- Restoration of Oregon Silverspot Butterfly habitat has proved extremely challenging. Native seed is only one of many limitations to success.
- There is an existing, high-functioning native plant partnership that serves the north and central coasts, the Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership (NORP). NORP has been growing out coastal prairie species and seems equipped to continue. The effort seems duplicative and there was no letter of support from NORP, who is mentioned in the application as coordinating with the new partnership.
- Creating an additional layer of bureaucracy around native plant propagation on the coast seems like a poor use of resources.
- The similar Willamette Valley Native Seed Partnership, also run by the applicant, has not yet proved to be self-sustaining as planned and seems on a trajectory to continually require investments in capacity.

- The application mentions the importance of developing seed for estuarine restoration, but many practitioners are finding that herbaceous propagules on site are sufficient in high salinity areas.
- The application would have benefitted from more collaboration with existing plant partnerships.
- Project cost seems high, especially the travel expenses.

Concluding Analysis

The need for native seed in order to facilitate more effective coastal prairie restoration is recognized, and the region could benefit from more coordination and collaboration. However, the review team had many questions about how this new partnership would interact with NORP, the existing, high-functioning plant partnership already serving the coast. NORP is equipped to grow out coastal prairie species in containers and has been engaged in coastal prairie restoration. It would be more efficient to build on existing resources rather than create a new program around native seed that requires another stream of capacity funding. The applicant is encouraged to work with NORP on building their capacity to handle coastal prairie seed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1029-15964

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Beaver Creek Stream and Floodplain Restoration Design

Applicant: MidCoast WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$66,120

Total Cost: \$83,805

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project focuses on four properties in the Beaver Creek (Ona Beach) sub-basin in Lincoln County, Oregon. This subbasin provides high quality habitat for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed Oregon Coast coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), as well as winter steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and other resident fish. The habitat values on these four properties could be further enhanced through channel restoration and off-channel habitat development, and by reducing stranding on the adjacent floodplain areas. The tributary junctions, extensive connected marshlands, and remnant topographical channel features offer important opportunities to restore the types of secondary channels and off-channel complex habitat that has been lost due to historic land drainage and channel manipulation. This project will provide designs to restore channels, meandering, off-channel habitats and new secondary channel development, and large wood placement. The project will also address fish passage restrictions on Simpson Creek where it crosses North Beaver Creek Road. The proposed work involves three elements: 1) Site Survey and Field Work, 2) Concept Development and Preliminary Design and 3) 90% Design and Permit Assistance. The end result will be digital terrain models of properties, hydraulic models along with a technical report, recommend design concepts in the form of memos and drawings, 90% drawings, cost estimates and specifications for project implementation and estimated quantities to support grant and permit applications. The MCWC's partners in this project include three private landowners, ODFW, US Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Our technical consultants is River Design Group.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on a previously funded restoration project in the Beaver Creek watershed involving a suite of private landowners.
- Beaver Creek has been a priority watershed in which to work since 1994. Recent changes in land ownership have begun to open up restoration opportunities.
- The resulting restoration project could have significant water quality and fish benefits.
- The applicant considered the recommendations of the review team when developing the technical assistance proposal, and was supportive of one major landowner opting to pursue technical assistance to increase the degree of restoration activities to be implemented.

Concerns

- It would be preferable for the technical assistance efforts to look more holistically at the Beaver Creek watershed, rather than piece meal project-by-project.
- It may be premature for site specific designs, given that the project is expected to be a phased approach and could encompass more of the watershed in the future.

Concluding Analysis

The review team was enthusiastic about the application, recognizing it as a promised future phase from a recently funded restoration effort within the same watershed. They were pleased to see that the landowners of the Beaver Creek Community property were on board with considering a more comprehensive channel redesign approach to restoration, and were supportive of the decision to include that property in the technical assistance request. The Beaver Creek watershed is a priority location in which to work, with excellent potential for wetland restoration that could be broader than just the group of projects presented here. The only significant concern was the lack of a more holistic whole-watershed approach during the planning phase; developing projects on a site-specific design basis may result in missed opportunities to expand restoration in the future. While it could prove fruitful to look more broadly at the watershed's hydrology, there is also value in addressing the differing needs of each landowner involved to keep momentum going in the watershed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$66,120

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$66,120

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1030-15976

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Stewart Creek Crossing and Habitat Designs

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Basin: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$69,850

Total Cost: \$113,237

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Partners seek to restore fish passage and enhance habitats on Stewart Creek, a tributary to Beaver Creek in the Lower Columbia River Watershed, Columbia County. Stewart Creek has been identified as a high priority stream for the recovery of Chum salmon and also supports coho salmon and steelhead. This project will restore passage to over 2 miles of habitat and enhance key spawning and rearing habitats. The project aims to address key limiting factors including reduced habitat access and reduced habitat quality identified in the Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan. These impacts are primarily associated with past land use practices and development that affected historic spawning, rearing and refugia habitats. The crossing under Rutters Road has been identified as limiting fish access and the transport of sediment and debris. The reach immediately upstream of the crossing lacks floodplain connection and habitat complexity. Despite these limitations, this site is one of the most important Chum spawning sites in the watershed and upstream areas provide quality coho and steelhead habitat opportunities. Partners seek funding to design a new properly sized bridge that restores fish passage to all life stages and flow regimes. This request includes technical assessments to evaluate habitat enhancement treatments upstream of the crossing. Deliverables include 1) 85-100% engineering designs and permits for the crossing, 2) Identification of feasible habitat enhancement alternatives and associated 30-60% designs. Project partners include Columbia County Roads Dept., ODFW, NRCS, and private landowners. SWCD and partners have developed the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) to leverage support for activities targeting the recovery of ESA and other significant species. This project aligns with the identified restoration practices addressed within the Watershed Plan Environmental Assessment for the RCPP area.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project location is a tidally influenced, low gradient site that will offer prime benefit for Lower Columbia River fish species once restored.
- Stewart Creek is considered to be an important location for chum recovery in the Lower Columbia.
- The project has a strong partnership and builds on the NRCS – RCPP effort. There is a high degree of technical expertise present in the partnership and designs are being contributed by the NRCS engineers.
- The funding request will cover geotechnical survey work, a critical component of a fish passage design which is unable to be funded independently by the partnership.

- Future phases of the project will include additional habitat work to further increase the ecological benefit arrived at by the replacement of the crossing.

Concerns

- The budget line item for project management time seemed high when compared to similar types of design projects.

Concluding Analysis

The review team recognized Stewart Creek as an important place to work for chum recovery, and they appreciated that future phases of the project would look beyond just passage to making other habitat improvements. The low gradient, tidally-influenced habitat present on the site was ideal for restoration of native fish species, and the resulting restoration project could have additional benefits on other species that rely on riparian and wetland habitats in the lower Columbia. The project is well-leveraged with an excellent partnership. There was a concern about the high cost of project management involved, but the review team understood that the project team would be helping on-the-ground with the survey work and associated brush clearing. The review team recommended a reduced amount of \$32,500 after receiving a revised budget from the applicant during the site visit. The reduced request takes into account the offer from another partner to do the majority of the survey work in house, thus leaving the only contracted service to be the geotechnical work.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced

Review Team Priority

3 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$35,200

Review Team Conditions

The review team recommended a reduced amount of \$32,500 after receiving a revised budget from the applicant during the site visit.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund Reduced

Staff Recommended Amount

\$35,200

Staff Conditions

The review team recommended a reduced amount of \$32,500 after receiving a revised budget from the applicant during the site visit.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1031-15985

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper Big Creek Road
Decommissioning

Applicant: North Coast WS Assn

Basin: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$10,381

Total Cost: \$21,069

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Camp 7 Spur is a 1.2 mile stretch of legacy logging road adjacent to Big Creek that encroaches on the floodplain and needs to be evaluated for abandonment. The project is located on Hampton Lumber Company forest land upstream from the Big Creek Fish Hatchery and the town of Knappa, 15 miles east of Astoria. This legacy haul-route roadbed constricts Big Creek's width, confining it to a much narrower floodplain and the basin's logging history has left the channel largely devoid of complexity and structure. Big Creek upstream from the ODFW fish hatchery is a priority stream for ESA listed species in the Nicolai-Wikiup Watershed because it is the only location in the watershed inaccessible to competition from hatchery fish. This project proposes to contract with technical services providers to design a host of restoration actions to improve fish habitat and channel processes including: 1) obliterate a section of road that is in the stream floodplain including removing road fill, 2) remove existing cross drains and restore natural drainage, 3) remove tributary culverts and associated road fill, 4) roughen remaining road bed and plant with conifer, 5) evaluate two bridges for removal and re-use for placement in appropriate locations and 6) design large wood placements to improve spawning and rearing habitat, promote floodplain connectivity, and increase off-channel refugia. Project partners include the private landowner, Hampton Resources and the North Coast Watershed Association (NCWA). This project has been identified by the Nicolai-Wikiup Watershed Council as a number one priority for implementation and the NCWA is eager to move this project forward now that the landowner is on board after years of discussion.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Big Creek is one of the largest watersheds in Clatsop County and the project location is in an ODFW priority basin for chum reintroduction.
- The project has a good partnership with the landowner and appropriate natural resource agencies.
- The project builds on past projects in the Big Creek watershed.
- The technical design request is extremely cost-effective and will complement well other project planning efforts contributed by the partnership.
- The conceptual design produced through this effort will be a good tool for working cooperatively with the landowner, who is engaged and willing to implement a restoration project on the property.
- The approach to the project was technically sound and there is an established need for the expertise to provide additional information that cannot be readily assessed by the landowner and council.

Concerns

- A letter of support was not provided by ODFW, and there was a concern that the Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program was not involved with the project.

Concluding Analysis

Reviewers welcomed the opportunity to work within the Big Creek watershed, recognizing it as an important place for chum recovery as well as other Lower Columbia River fish species. The cost-effective technical assistance approach capitalized on using the existing resources of the partnership. The products produced would be beneficial to the landowner and could help arrive at a good restoration design. There was concern that ODFW wasn't involved, as this particular project type seemed like a prime focus area of the Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program, although it was understood that program is heavily subscribed. The review team recommended the project for funding and looked forward to seeing a resulting restoration project from the applicant. The review team also wanted the applicant to be aware that a DEQ Section 401 permit would be required for implementation, and to plan accordingly with the project budget.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$10,381

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$10,381

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1032-15995

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper Lewis and Clark Tidal Restoration Project

Applicant: CREST

Basin: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$71,089

Total Cost: \$160,963

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Columbia River Estuary Taskforce (CREST) and the National Park Service are requesting technical assistance funding to complete the geotechnical investigation as part of the design phase of Upper Lewis and Clark Tidal Restoration Project. The investigation will aid the design engineers in the completion of 60%, 90% and final design stages paid for by National Park Service funding. 30% designs and hydraulic modeling have already been completed for the proposed project. Project partners are proposing to restore salmonid habitat and tidal processes on a 29 acre floodplain known as East Bank Netul Landing, which is part of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Park. The site is located in Clatsop County Oregon on the Lewis and Clark River at River Mile 2.5. The site is currently hydrologically disconnected from the Lewis and Clark River and as a result, the habitat is degraded. The primary purpose of this project is to restore degraded estuary habitat critical to the recovery of threatened/endangered Columbia River and tributary salmon. The project will improve hydrologic connectivity, tidal processes and habitat quality on off-channel tidal scrub-shrub/forested marsh floodplain habitat by 1) Building a setback levee on an adjacent property surrounding the project site to protect an adjacent landowner 2) Installing a tidegate at the setback levee location in order to restore tidal influence to 1,100 feet of natural slough. 3) Strategic marshplain lowering, channel creation (3 tidal channels) and levee breaches (three channel breaches) will improve onsite hydraulics 4) A flow-through channel would be constructed to provide both instream habitat benefits and recreational opportunities for the National Park Service through a portion of the site 5) LWD placement and native planting in riparian and wetland areas and invasive species management will improve habitat quality and complexity on the property.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located in a priority area and would restore 29 acres of critical estuarine habitat to the Lewis and Clark River, a habitat type that is extremely imperiled with an estimated 95% lost over the last century. There are limited opportunities in the Lewis and Clark to restore tidally influenced habitat.
- The project has the potential to improve water quality, especially dissolved oxygen, with the reconnection of slough habitat.
- The project works cooperatively with an adjacent agricultural landowner, and if designed appropriately, could be a showcase project in the north coast region and prompt similar efforts.

- The project team is experienced and has a good track record of success implementing similar projects.

Concerns

- The plans to move the levee to a location which would cross an existing channel were unclear. There is concern that the flow velocities might be exasperated by the current design, making fish passage an issue.
- The proposed location of the flow-through channel on the site seemed to be located right where the natural levee would be, which may cause sediment challenges.
- The application would have benefited from more information about the plan to construct a new levee and tide gate for the adjacent owner in order to accommodate the restoration project. A new tide gate, if required to be fish-passage friendly, could greatly escalate the timeline and cost of the project.

Concluding Analysis

The review team recognized the significance of the opportunity to restore 29 acres of estuarine habitat within this reach of the Lewis and Clark River, understanding how limited site availability is for this type of restoration. A properly designed and implemented project would have far reaching benefits to fish and water quality. Several design elements were unclear, including the location of the proposed new setback levee, associated tide gate, and flow-through channel. Further, the proposed set back levee and tide gate could propel the resulting restoration project's total cost beyond what would be a feasible cost-benefit ratio. However, these issues can be addressed during the final stages of the design, and the project team represented a strong partnership with a good track record of implementing similar types of projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$71,089

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1033-16006

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Apiary Road Fish Passage Improvement

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Basin: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$74,800

Total Cost: \$170,300

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Clatskanie River drains 94.9 sq. miles of Columbia County before terminating into Wallace Slough at approximately River Mile 50 of the Columbia River. Its headwaters provides critical spawning and rearing habitat for coho and steelhead. Several culverts within its headwaters and tributaries have been identified by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and habitat surveys as fish passage barriers impacting the ability of juvenile and adult salmonids to reach high quality habitat. Receipt of this TA grant will begin permit ready designs to a barrier on the Little Clatskanie River which will open 10 miles of unimpeded access to some of the highest quality salmonid habitat in this watershed. Potential design solutions for replacement of the culverts include a span bridge or bottomless culvert. The design selected will be one that meets ODFW fish passage criteria, Columbia County Road Standards, and maintains the natural stream morphology. Project partners include the Columbia SWCD, Columbia County Road Department, and the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council. Associated partners have developed the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) to leverage support for activities targeting recovery of ESA and other significant species. This project aligns with the identified targeted restoration activities addressed within the Environmental Assessment RCPP area.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Clatskanie River is a high priority watershed in which to work in the Lower Columbia. This particular project location has been a high priority for numerous natural resource agencies for some time.
- Restoring passage at this crossing would complement ODFW's extensive ongoing restoration efforts upstream.
- The resulting restoration project would restore passage to 6.5 miles of high quality aquatic habitat for anadromous and resident fish species.
- The project team is a strong partnership between the applicant, the County, and ODFW, and builds on the NRCS – RCPP program. The approach laid out by the applicant is thoughtful and well-considered.

Concerns

- From the site visit, it was clear that the culvert is in imminent failure. The benefit of OWEB's involvement at this stage of the project was called into question, with it seeming increasingly likely

that the culvert would not last much longer in its current condition.

- The NRCS match was not secured and it was unclear if it would be available at the time of project implementation.

Concluding Analysis

The review team recognized that replacement of this structure had been a high priority for multiple entities for some time, and they acknowledged that the culvert's location at the bottom of the Little Clatskanie River watershed meant that it was an imperative location to have fish passage. Replacement of the existing structure would have a substantial benefit to aquatic species, with access to over 6.5 miles restored. The project had a strong partnership assembled and seemed well positioned to design and implement a successful restoration project. While the culvert is in danger of imminent failure, a stronger project on behalf of fish and wildlife could be implemented with OWEB funding.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,800

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$74,800

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1034-16021

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Clatskanie River Habitat Restoration-Reach 10 Design

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Basin: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$74,800

Total Cost: \$95,405

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Historically, the Clatskanie River in Columbia County, Oregon, supported robust populations of salmonids, all of which have declined due to anthropogenic influences that negatively impact riparian and aquatic habitats. Lower Columbia River evolutionary significant unit (ESU) Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Coho (*O. kisutch*) and Chum (*O. keta*), all federally listed as threatened, and non-ESA listed SW Washington distinct population segment (DPS) steelhead (*O. mykiss*) occur within the Clatskanie River. The Clatskanie River Habitat Restoration-Reach 10 project, roughly located between RM 15 and 16, aims to address key limiting factors associated with impaired habitat complexity and diversity, and access to off-channel habitats, identified by the Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan for Oregon Populations of Salmon and Steelhead (ODFW 2010) as key factors influencing the river's ability to support salmonid populations. To leverage support for restoration activities that address key limiting factors within the Lower Columbia-Clatskanie River Watershed the Columbia SWCD, in partnership with the NRCS, has developed the Lower Columbia River Partnership Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The Lower Columbia River Partnership is comprised of federal, state and local partners, such as the USFWS, ODFW, Columbia County Roads Department, and the Lower Columbia Watershed Council, that have pledged support for RCPP restoration activities. In a letter dated 11-10-15 OWEB acknowledges that over the next five years competitive grant requests for the Lower Columbia River Partnership RCPP will be submitted; see enclosed letter. If granted, OWEB technical assistance funding will be used to leverage additional RCPP funding for this project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located on the Clatskanie River, a priority watershed for restoration in the Lower Columbia. The project area is of importance for spawning and rearing for both coho salmon and winter steelhead. The site also is considered to have potential benefits for chum reintroduction.
- The project location has few design constraints, presenting an opportunity for a comprehensive restoration project with a variety of project elements that addresses limiting factors in the watershed.
- The landowners are enthusiastic and engaged, and project development at this site could result in other opportunities within the watershed.
- The project partners have a good track record implementing similar types of projects in the watershed.

- The resulting restoration could have good water quality benefits to the Clatskanie.

Concerns

- The NRCS match was not secured and it was unclear if it would be available at the time of project implementation.

Concluding Analysis

Given the project team's past success at implementing similar projects in the Clatskanie, the review team was enthusiastic about the opportunity to expand upon past work and design a project in this location that could have good water quality and habitat benefits. With few site constraints and a willing landowner, a comprehensive restoration project on the site could potentially be a model for other landowners to consider. The project location had high intrinsic potential for spawning coho, and could also benefit the reintroduction of chum, another priority in the Lower Columbia.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,800

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$74,800

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1035-16013
Project Name: Mid Coast Monitoring Project

Project Type: Monitoring

Applicant: Lincoln SWCD

Basin: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$124,317

Total Cost: \$158,713

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District (LSWCD), in cooperation with the Mid Coast Watersheds Council (MCWC), Salmon Drift Watershed Council (SDWC), Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW), Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (CTSI), and other agencies and private landowners, is conducting an ongoing data collection and restoration effort in the Mid Coast region, from Salmon River basin in the north to the Yachats Basin in the south including Ocean Tributaries. This grant would fund three surveyors to continue Aquatic Habitat Inventories, and Spawning Ground Surveys, for one year using OWEB and ODFW protocols. The work load would come from 60% ODFW direction and 40% requests from the Mid Coast Watersheds Council, Salmon Drift Watershed Council, CTSI and other agencies. The Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District (LSWCD), in cooperation with the Mid Coast Watersheds Council (MCWC), Salmon Drift Watershed Council (SDWC), Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW), Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (CTSI), and other agencies and private landowners, is conducting an ongoing data collection and restoration effort in the Mid Coast region, from Salmon River basin in the north to the Yachats Basin in the south including Ocean Tributaries. This grant would fund three surveyors to continue Aquatic Habitat Inventories, and Spawning Ground Surveys, for one year using OWEB and ODFW protocols. The work load would come from 60% ODFW direction and 40% requests from the Mid Coast Watersheds Council, Salmon Drift Watershed Council, CTSI and other agencies.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The data the applicant proposes to collect is helpful to ODFW for fisheries management.
- The role the applicant plays in gaining access to private land is crucial in filling data gaps that would exist if a state or federal agency was the lead.
- The applicant has a good track record of producing high quality data following ODFW's protocols.
- The application included several letters of support from local, state and federal partners.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application does not describe how the grantee uses these data. It would be strengthened if they

described how the data fits into their decisions for restoration planning and how important this data is to the work they are doing.

- The OPMT openly questioned what would happen if this application was not funded given that ODFW relies on these data for management decisions (e.g., district-level decisions about fisheries).
- It was unclear how the different monitoring locations would meet the objectives that were stated in the application.

Monitoring Team Comments

- Work with ODFW to utilize the pre- and post-habitat quality data to understand the effectiveness of restoration actions and report on these findings.

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High-38%, Medium-38%, Low-24%

Certainty of Success

High-12%, Medium-88%, Low-0%

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The long-running monitoring project has become a staple for the region in terms of reliance on the data collected. Multiple users of the data continually attest to its quality and applicability.
- The data is used in multi-species planning efforts by ODFW to address fishing regulation issues and handle population estimates, in addition to being used by local watershed organizations to plan restoration efforts and track project success.
- The Aquatic Inventory work conducted by the project team is useful and helpful for setting threshold levels.
- The project is cost-effective based on the unit cost for salaries, wages, and benefits.
- The data collection efforts serve to ground truth modeling data.
- The project is critical for fisheries managers to arrive at confidence levels of Siletz fish populations, and has become more important in the context of the Coho Business Planning efforts underway in that basin. The project team has been working closely with the Siletz tribe on effectiveness monitoring.

Concerns

- Utilization of the data to set fish harvest levels may not be a meaningful use of OWEB funds.
- AQI data would be more useful at the population level. A more coordinated effort should be facilitated to achieve this goal.
- Investment from other funding partners for the positions involved would be welcome and has been absent from this project.
- It would be preferable for a program of this nature to be more strategic and able to be utilized throughout the entirety of the north coast.

Concluding Analysis

The review team was very familiar with this project, recognizing this iteration from the previous two decades of similar monitoring projects from this applicant. The data collection methods are sound and the data is used widely and for a variety of purposes. The project supports new partnerships with the Confederated Tribe of Siletz Indians and the MidCoast partners developing a Strategic Action Plan. There is great value in continuing surveys that have been done for over 50 years, particularly given the budget shortfalls among other natural resource agencies. Concerns similar to those in previous applications remain: lack of other funders and a narrow geographic scope. Addressing these concerns would allow the program to become a resource that could be accessed by other restoration practitioners throughout the north coast basin. The review team felt that the program, despite those shortfalls, was valuable and needed to continue, especially within the context of Strategic Action Planning in the Siletz basin.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$124,317

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$124,317

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1036-16014

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: 2018-19 Volunteer Water Quality
Monitoring Program

Applicant: Siuslaw WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$13,191

Total Cost: \$30,078

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project will continue and modify an existing monitoring effort in the Siuslaw River basin, a 773 square mile watershed in the central Oregon coast range that empties into the Pacific Ocean just south of the city of Florence in Lane County. An extensive portion of the Siuslaw River is 303(d) listed for temperature, dissolved oxygen, bacteria, biological criteria, and sedimentation, and the Oregon Coastal Coho Assessment has identified water quality as population-limiting across the Siuslaw Basin. Volunteers will be focused on first flush events and cold-water refugia monitoring during low flow conditions. Continuous monitoring for temperature, dissolved oxygen, and conductivity will be employed at strategic locations throughout the watershed. This project will continue and modify an existing monitoring effort in the Siuslaw River basin, a 773 square mile watershed in the central Oregon coast range that empties into the Pacific Ocean just south of the city of Florence in Lane County. An extensive portion of the Siuslaw River is 303(d) listed for temperature, dissolved oxygen, bacteria, biological criteria, and sedimentation, and the Oregon Coastal Coho Assessment has identified water quality as population-limiting across the Siuslaw Basin. Volunteers will be focused on first flush events and cold-water refugia monitoring during low flow conditions. Continuous monitoring for temperature, dissolved oxygen, and conductivity will be employed at strategic locations throughout the watershed.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The applicant is coordinating with state agencies to incorporate this information into coastal Coho recovery plan implementation and TMDL development efforts.
- The applicant has shown their ability to collect and manage past water quality monitoring data.
- The applicant has done a good job of working with volunteers to get involved with monitoring.
- The OPMT liked that the applicant looked at the past data to plan future monitoring efforts.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application stated they want to identify cold water refugia, but it was unclear how they were going to do this.

- The application was difficult from the standpoint of understanding how past data were used to inform future monitoring approaches at the various locations.
- The application lacked sufficient detail about how they would analyze the data for trends and if that would inform restoration planning.
- It was not clear what question they were trying to answer with the first-flush sampling, why nutrients were chosen, and how they would analyze the data.

Monitoring Team Comments

- In order to compare the E. coli results to the state standard, collect 5 samples within a 90-day period.

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High-13%, Medium-75%, Low-13%

Certainty of Success

High-13%, Medium-75%, Low-13%

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project expands on a long-term temperature monitoring effort.
- The MidCoast TMDL development effort depends on this data and the years of data collection are now translating to the TMDL process.
- The monitoring effort has been adaptive to new technology and practices over time.
- The project will directly support the Strategic Action Plan in development for the Coho Business Plan process in the Siuslaw watershed.

Concerns

- The rationale for monitoring nutrients described in the application was difficult to follow.
- The methodology proposed for the first flush monitoring efforts has a low likelihood of success.
- It takes a broader scope of work to grasp the specifics of cold water refugia within a watershed, and it was unclear how much information could be obtained with this proposal strategy.
- There is no information in the application explaining how the data will be associated with stream miles.
- It was unclear how the bacteria monitoring was connected with the nutrient work.

Concluding Analysis

The review team was very familiar with this long running monitoring project in the Siuslaw watershed and understood that the TMDL process in the MidCoast region was dependent on this type of data collection.

The project has adapted new practices in recent years. The monitoring effort will help inform any refinements to the Strategic Action Plan currently in its final stages of development within the watershed. The project is recommended for funding due to the importance of the long-running data set and its usefulness in informing the TMDL process, outweighed the concerns about the effectiveness of the first flush and nutrient monitoring. It is recommended that the project team further refine the plan for those monitoring components.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$13,191

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1037-16026 **Project Type:** Monitoring
Project Name: Lower Nehalem RBA and LFA Light
Applicant: Lower Nehalem WC
Basin: North Coast **County:** Tillamook
OWEB Request: \$130,226 **Total Cost:** \$167,726

Project Abstract *(from application)*

LOCATION:The Lower Nehalem watershed encompasses a drainage area of approximately 300 square miles of Oregon's North Coast. This expansive watershed provides habitat for ESA Oregon Coast coho salmon, as well as Chinook and chum salmon, steelhead trout, coastal cutthroat trout and Pacific and brook lamprey. **PROJECT NEED:**The draft Nehalem Strategic Action Plan for Coho and other watershed assessments and plans drafted by local, state, tribal and federal entities have identified the lack of basin-scale inventories of salmonid distribution, abundance and habitat distribution in the Nehalem watershed, especially in the Lower Nehalem, as overwhelming data gaps in our effort to identify high priority areas for restoration and conservation. Previous assessments do not provide the detail needed to establish restoration goals for specific sub-watersheds or reaches within those streams. **PROPOSED WORK:**This project proposes to conduct a Rapid Bioassessment and Limiting Factors Analysis Light of 201 stream miles in the Lower Nehalem Watershed. The project will collect essential data regarding salmonid distributions and abundance and associated watershed characteristics that may serve as limiting factors for salmonids. The goal is to determine seasonal habitat limitations for coho and develop a systematic approach to identify and implement restoration actions that address those limiting factors. **PROJECT PARTNERS/ROLES**1. LNWC providing project management and coordination.2. A contracted qualified consultant will perform the data collection and analysis.3. LNWC will work with a University program for GIS consultation and analysis.4. A Technical Advisory Committee will review the data, analysis and final products. **LOCATION:**The Lower Nehalem watershed encompasses a drainage area of approximately 300 square miles of Oregon's North Coast. This expansive watershed provides habitat for ESA Oregon Coast coho salmon, as well as Chinook and chum salmon, steelhead trout, coastal cutthroat trout and Pacific and brook lamprey. **PROJECT NEED:**The draft Nehalem Strategic Action Plan for Coho and other watershed assessments and plans drafted by local, state, tribal and federal entities have identified the lack of basin-scale inventories of salmonid distribution, abundance and habitat distribution in the Nehalem watershed, especially in the Lower Nehalem, as overwhelming data gaps in our effort to identify high priority areas for restoration and conservation. Previous assessments do not provide the detail needed to establish restoration goals for specific sub-watersheds or reaches within those streams. **PROPOSED WORK:**This project proposes to conduct a Rapid Bioassessment and Limiting Factors Analysis Light of 201 stream miles in the Lower Nehalem Watershed. The project will collect essential data regarding salmonid distributions and abundance and associated watershed characteristics that may serve as limiting factors for salmonids. The goal is to determine seasonal habitat limitations for coho and develop a systematic approach to identify and implement restoration actions that address those

limiting factors. PROJECT PARTNERS/ROLES 1. LNWC providing project management and coordination. 2. A contracted qualified consultant will perform the data collection and analysis. 3. LNWC will work with a University program for GIS consultation and analysis. 4. A Technical Advisory Committee will review the data, analysis and final products.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This proposal builds on past efforts to use RBA results to characterize fish distribution for the remainder of the watershed that has not been assessed previously.
- This information will contribute to the local coastal Coho recovery planning efforts.
- They are working with local partners and pursuing other sources of funding to plan the monitoring effort.
- The OPMT liked that there will be a technical advisory group convened that can help interpret the results and use them to plan future restoration efforts.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- This monitoring is proposed to occur a year after poor adult Coho returns and may not provide an accurate picture of fish distribution in this watershed.
- The timeline seemed ambitious to secure the contractor, gain access and collect, analyze and report all of the data in one calendar year.
- The applicant does not have a confirmed commitment from a single university to provide the GIS assistance.
- The objectives and questions stated in the application do not completely align.
- Caution should be taken to avoid equating absence of fish to a specific habitat or ecosystem driver.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High-29%, Medium-71%, Low-0%

Certainty of Success

High-0%, Medium-100%, Low-0%

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The data collected with the project will provide additional information to help support project prioritization with the Nehalem Strategic Action Plan under the Coho Business Plan. It will also be used to assist with the validation of the NetMap modeling effort completed by the SAP process.

- Major landowners within the Nehalem are engaged with the project and are allowing access for the survey work.
- The applicant plans to put the project out to bid, which could help bring down the estimated cost of the work.
- In the locations in the Upper Nehalem where previous RBA data was collected, it was very useful in helping to calibrate NetMap and assist with the project prioritization process.

Concerns

- Only one year of data for juvenile coho may not be useful, especially only one year after poor returns due to ocean conditions.
- The project provides only a snapshot in the watershed for one year.
- The budget contained many lump sums and it was difficult to determine the project's cost effectiveness.
- The price per mile for the work was still very high at \$590/mile. Previous applications involving RBA data in recent years listed prices of \$310/mile.
- The application would have benefitted from more detail with regards to timing and the plan for data collection.
- The unknown partnership with an unidentified university seemed vague and raised concerns about the viability of the plan to get the necessary GIS work done.

Concluding Analysis

The review team understood that the Nehalem SAP process had identified lack of RBA data as a key data gap for prioritizing watersheds and projects, and felt that such a data collection effort would be helpful in arriving at a finalized plan and project list. They had concerns about the data being only a snapshot in time -- but recognized that in bad years the fish go to the best habitat, so the limited time of the monitoring effort may not be too much of an issue. There were continued concerns over the high cost of the project, but going out to bid for the work may bring the cost down. Despite several concerns about the project, it will address a key data gap identified by the Coho Business Planning team and is recommended for funding.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$130,226

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$130,226

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1038-16029

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: 2018-2019 Salmon Drift Water
Quality Monitoring

Applicant: Salmon Drift Cr WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$32,928

Total Cost: \$74,948

Project Abstract *(from application)*

SDCWC proposes doing a water quality screening process of smaller ocean tributaries and outfalls in our boundary. Project will focus on urbanized watersheds in Lincoln City. Project addresses the need to better understand current status of smaller, less studied ocean tributaries and outfalls within the urbanized coastal landscape Major streams previously not studied include Baldy Creek, Agnes Creek, and Logan Creek plus outfalls at numerous sites along the 7 mile beaches of Lincoln City. Water quality data to be collected will include physical parameters of dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, temperature and turbidity along with biological parameters of bacteria as indicators of fecal contamination. Sampling will be primarily in the freshwater, however, marine samples will be taken from the nearshore for a comparative bacteria study. Data will be used to determine impairments and be of value to recreational users of area beaches as well as harvesters of shellfish (clams and mussels). Project partners include Oregon DEQ, Neighbors for Kids, Surfrider Foundation, and the City of Lincoln City. SDCWC proposes doing a water quality screening process of smaller ocean tributaries and outfalls in our boundary. Project will focus on urbanized watersheds in Lincoln City. Project addresses the need to better understand current status of smaller, less studied ocean tributaries and outfalls within the urbanized coastal landscape Major streams previously not studied include Baldy Creek, Agnes Creek, and Logan Creek plus outfalls at numerous sites along the 7 mile beaches of Lincoln City. Water quality data to be collected will include physical parameters of dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, temperature and turbidity along with biological parameters of bacteria as indicators of fecal contamination. Sampling will be primarily in the freshwater, however, marine samples will be taken from the nearshore for a comparative bacteria study. Data will be used to determine impairments and be of value to recreational users of area beaches as well as harvesters of shellfish (clams and mussels). Project partners include Oregon DEQ, Neighbors for Kids, Surfrider Foundation, and the City of Lincoln City.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The applicant has a strong demonstration of success collecting similar data sets.
- The OPMT liked that the applications states that a Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) will be developed as part of this project.
- The applicant has good support from the local partners and this information is likely to have an education and outreach value to them.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application did not make the case that these small tributaries are important to study.
- It was not clear if high bacteria levels are an issue along the beaches near the mouths of these streams.
- The application did not explain if these streams are valuable to salmonids and if there is a need for this type of monitoring.
- The continuous DO measurements proposed during the winter seem unnecessary.
- The four flow measurements in each stream will have limited value. It would be better to collect a flow measurement during each grab event or gage one stream continuously to understand variability in these small and flashy streams.
- It was unclear if the local municipality is a partner on this project.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High-12%, Medium-38%, Low-50%

Certainty of Success

High-38%, Medium-38%, Low-24%

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This is a long-running monitoring effort in Lincoln County run by a project team with a high capacity and high expertise for effective monitoring work.
- The ocean outfall monitoring component of the project is an interesting project element. Ocean outfalls are often unaddressed, despite the fact that they are plagued with water quality issues.
- The utilization of the Swim Guide is a good public outreach benefit of the project.

Concerns

- It was unclear how ocean outfall monitoring fits in with other watershed monitoring priorities. The application did not make a strong case for the need for this type of monitoring and there was not a clear plan with what the applicant would do with the information.
- The application would have benefitted from evidence of a stronger partnership with local municipalities -- such as letters of support or provided match.
- Outfall monitoring could help inform beach monitoring, but has limited usefulness when not analyzed by a certified lab.

- It was unclear why 12 months of continuous DO and temperature monitoring was proposed, and how the data would be used.

Concluding Analysis

The review team found the application to be very well written and the project team involved to be highly experienced in monitoring work. Ocean outfall data could prove useful, but the application was unclear about the need and priority for this monitoring focus, and about how the data would be used. Due to the potential to expand knowledge about an overlooked ocean water quality issue, the application is recommended for funding. Future applications, if submitted, should address the need for this monitoring and the connection between monitoring and restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$32,928

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1039-16049

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Tillamook Bay Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia (OAH) Monitoring

Applicant: Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

Basin: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$63,360

Total Cost: \$84,672

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Ocean acidification and hypoxia (OAH) represent growing threats to coastal ecosystems. OAH is particularly severe in Oregon, as our coastal ocean is subject to some of the lowest DO and pH waters on the west coast if not nationally. Addressing the problem of OAH is important to the economy and the livelihoods of many coastal communities. The suite of organisms that will be impacted by OAH continues to grow beyond oysters and Dungeness crabs, to include iconic species such as salmon, and rockfishes. To better understand OAH, Oregon has created the Oregon Ocean Acidification & Hypoxia Monitoring Group (OOMG) that includes water quality, ecology, and environmental monitoring professionals and natural resource managers. OOMG has developed a multi-stage strategy to address OAH through: 1) enhanced and coordinated monitoring; 2) research on impacts, local mitigation and adaptation options; 3) outreach and engagement across industry, management, political leaders, and researchers. Our proposal contributes to enhancing and coordinating monitoring of OAH and focuses on Tillamook Bay. Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP), with the assistance of OOMG members, propose to establish baseline information on carbonate chemistry and spatiotemporal patterns of OAH in Tillamook Bay that will leverage existing efforts by TEP and the EPA that currently monitor ecosystem processes in the estuary. We seek funding to purchase high quality pH sensors and to conduct a targeted campaign to collect water samples for the purpose of describing the estuarine carbonate system and the role of freshwater in altering OA properties.

Ocean acidification and hypoxia (OAH) represent growing threats to coastal ecosystems. OAH is particularly severe in Oregon, as our coastal ocean is subject to some of the lowest DO and pH waters on the west coast if not nationally. Addressing the problem of OAH is important to the economy and the livelihoods of many coastal communities. The suite of organisms that will be impacted by OAH continues to grow beyond oysters and Dungeness crabs, to include iconic species such as salmon, and rockfishes. To better understand OAH, Oregon has created the Oregon Ocean Acidification & Hypoxia Monitoring Group (OOMG) that includes water quality, ecology, and environmental monitoring professionals and natural resource managers. OOMG has developed a multi-stage strategy to address OAH through: 1) enhanced and coordinated monitoring; 2) research on impacts, local mitigation and adaptation options; 3) outreach and engagement across industry, management, political leaders, and researchers. Our proposal contributes to enhancing and coordinating monitoring of OAH and focuses on Tillamook Bay. Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP), with the assistance of OOMG members, propose to establish baseline information on carbonate chemistry and spatiotemporal patterns of OAH in Tillamook Bay that will leverage existing efforts by TEP and the EPA

that currently monitor ecosystem processes in the estuary. We seek funding to purchase high quality pH sensors and to conduct a targeted campaign to collect water samples for the purpose of describing the estuarine carbonate system and the role of freshwater in altering OA properties.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This proposal seeks to collect data on an important subject and they can leverage data already being collected off-shore.
- The OPMT liked that a final report will be produced and put on TEP's website.
- The proposed monitoring project has good involvement with OSU and state agencies that are actively working on this issue.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application lacked detail on how the various data will be managed and analyzed to look for relationships between sites and at various tides, and why nutrients were chosen to be sampled.
- The budget seems low for the amount of work that is proposed over the period of time.
- It was not clear how this information could contribute to better restoration planning and monitoring efforts in the Tillamook basin.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High-43%, Medium-43%, Low-14%

Certainty of Success

High-29%, Medium-71%, Low-0%

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Ocean acidification is a growing threat to estuaries and there is a critical data gap in Oregon. Addressing this issue is a high priority for both the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership and the EPA.
- The project assembles a broad group of technical experts and provides a path to move forward on an effort to begin gathering data. The partnership is organized, cohesive, and produced a high quality application.
- The study design represents an innovative approach and could be a pilot for Oregon and provide important information for how to approach monitoring for OAH on an estuary-scale.
- The monitoring work would correlate with an EPA-funded 2 year monitoring effort currently underway in the Tillamook estuary that examines isotopic DNA.

- The information collected from this project could be used to refine a localized response to acidification in estuaries as well as potentially support native oyster restoration.

Concerns

- The application would have benefitted from more information on the next steps for the project, a summary of how the data will be used, and presenting the hypothesis closer to the beginning of the narrative.

Concluding Analysis

The review team was excited about this project to begin monitoring OAH in the Tillamook estuary, recognizing the importance of the issue from the perspective of both ecological restoration and the local economy which depends on healthy estuaries for recreational and commercial shellfish production. While it is possible to tailor restoration projects on a localized level to address the growing problem, there is a large data gap within Oregon's estuaries that limits our ability to target the problem. This proposal, with a well-organized team of technical experts, would be a good start to getting a grasp on the issue by beginning a pilot study in Tillamook Bay. The main concern is that the project was small in geographic scope; however, the applicant developed a cost-effective proposal that is replicable in other estuaries.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$63,360

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$63,360

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1040-16075

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Mid-Coast Basin Water Quality
Trend Monitoring Phase III

Applicant: Lincoln SWCD

Basin: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$25,689

Total Cost: \$44,883

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Siletz River and Beaver Creek watersheds have been targeted for this third phase of monitoring (Figure 1. Phase III Monitoring Sites). Each watershed has a separate monitoring focus and timeline and will therefore be presented separately. Siletz: The six established Siletz monitoring sites along with one new downstream site and four new tributary sites will be visited once a month for one year (Figure 2. Siletz Monitoring Sites). Data will be collected for temperature, conductivity, pH, pressure, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and stage as before. Nitrate will be added to the in situ suite of parameters and Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus will be analyzed by a certified laboratory. Photo points will be established at each site to document changes in aquatic plant growth throughout the year. Nutrients have been chosen to fill a water quality data gap and to provide baseline data to partner organizations and local residents concerned with eutrophication. In addition to the monthly visits, specified parameters will be measured in conjunction with the Turbidity Threshold Sampling (TTS) at one monitoring site for two significant precipitation events at intervals along the hydrograph. Beaver Creek: There are four established monitoring sites in the Beaver Creek watershed (Figure 3. Beaver Creek Monitoring Sites). ODEQ is in the process of selecting up to five additional sites for the continuous dissolved oxygen (CDO) monitoring to guide the development of a TMDL for Beaver Creek. Monitoring will be conducted July - November 2018 in order to characterize conditions during the rearing and migration and spawning seasons. A total of six site visits are expected, three visits for each set of conditions, which include: equipment deployment, auditing, and retrieval visits. During each visit specified parameters will be recorded and photo points established. Partners: ODEQ, City of Toledo, City of Newport, Seal Rock Water District, DOA, OPRD, CTSI, ODFW, MCWC, SWC The Siletz River and Beaver Creek watersheds have been targeted for this third phase of monitoring (Figure 1. Phase III Monitoring Sites). Each watershed has a separate monitoring focus and timeline and will therefore be presented separately. Siletz: The six established Siletz monitoring sites along with one new downstream site and four new tributary sites will be visited once a month for one year (Figure 2. Siletz Monitoring Sites). Data will be collected for temperature, conductivity, pH, pressure, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and stage as before. Nitrate will be added to the in situ suite of parameters and Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus will be analyzed by a certified laboratory. Photo points will be established at each site to document changes in aquatic plant growth throughout the year. Nutrients have been chosen to fill a water quality data gap and to provide baseline data to partner organizations and local residents concerned with eutrophication. In addition to the monthly visits, specified parameters will be measured in conjunction with the Turbidity Threshold

Sampling (TTS) at one monitoring site for two significant precipitation events at intervals along the hydrograph. Beaver Creek: There are four established monitoring sites in the Beaver Creek watershed (Figure 3. Beaver Creek Monitoring Sites). ODEQ is in the process of selecting up to five additional sites for the continuous dissolved oxygen (CDO) monitoring to guide the development of a TMDL for Beaver Creek. Monitoring will be conducted July - November 2018 in order to characterize conditions during the rearing and migration and spawning seasons. A total of six site visits are expected, three visits for each set of conditions, which include: equipment deployment, auditing, and retrieval visits. During each visit specified parameters will be recorded and photo points established. Partners: ODEQ, City of Toledo, City of Newport, Seal Rock Water District, DOA, OPRD, CTSI, ODFW, MCWC, SWC

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The applicant has experience collecting similar data sets.
- This applicant proposes to collect data that will build on past monitoring efforts.
- The applicant works closely with DEQ and the data will contribute to the TMDL development effort.
- The OPMT liked that the application proposes to complete a SAP as part of this project.
- There were numerous letters of support describing the value of the monitoring effort.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- No time is built into the project timeline to develop QA/QC documentation.
- It is uncertain if the frequency of maintenance for dissolved oxygen probes is sufficient.
- It is unclear what data management system they are going to use prior to submitting data to DEQ for analyses.
- It is unclear who would complete the analyses to meet the objectives stated in the application.
- The application did not include time and expenses to develop a final report to summarize results and interpret findings.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High-63%, Medium-25%, Low-12%

Certainty of Success

High-13%, Medium-75%, Low-12%

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project builds on past monitoring efforts and would produce important information that will inform several planning efforts on the MidCoast, including the Siletz basin Coho Business Plan and the MidCoast TMDL process.
- The monitoring effort also correlates with the ongoing Place Based Planning initiative underway with the City of Newport and the Oregon Water Resources Department. The project seems timely and capitalizes on the current interest in water quality from the local municipalities involved.
- The study design considers numerous pertinent regional questions and seems well considered.
- Water quality in this part of the region has been identified as a secondary limiting factor in the Coho Recovery Plan.
- The proposed nutrient data collection could provide valuable information in refining an approach to restoration in target areas.

Concerns

- The frequency of bacteria sampling proposed may not be adequate given the recent change in bacteria standards.
- The plan to conduct some grab samples as well as continuous monitoring may not be necessary or especially useful, given that the parameters fluctuate daily.

Concluding Analysis

The review team was pleased to see that there was momentum in the mid-coast basin to build upon the water quality monitoring effort in the region, acknowledging that there were numerous local planning efforts that relied on the collection of updated water quality data and that there was considerable interest in the project at the local municipal level. The application is straightforward and well-written, and the applicant has a high likelihood of implementing a successful project. The applicant should consider increasing the frequency of bacteria sampling to meet current standards, since that will increase the usability of the data on a broader scale.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$25,689

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$25,689

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1041-15972

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Lower Columbia River Stakeholder
Engagement Project

Applicant: Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

Basin: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$36,777

Total Cost: \$55,691

This application was deemed ineligible prior to review.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1042-16017

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Siuslaw River Restoration
Accomplishments and Stakeholder Engagement

Applicant: Siuslaw WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$72,153

Total Cost: \$97,653

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Founded in 1997, the Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC) has demonstrated a rich history of successful, collaborative efforts to restore our watershed. As we continue to build new partnerships and complete new projects, we seek to use dynamic tools that can share our compelling history of restoration and support wider engagement of a variety of stakeholders across the watershed. Through this project, SWC and its partners will create a Story Map and supporting communications tools that: (1) illustrate past examples of restoration projects; (2) explain how restoration efforts benefit the health of ecosystems, local communities, and local economies; and (3) create opportunities for SWC to work with local landowners and other stakeholders on future restoration. Story Maps combine maps with narrative text, images, and other digital content to help paint a more detailed picture than may be presented in static maps or reports (visit <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/en/>). This project will harness the knowledge, skills, and expertise of our partners at Ecotrust, the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District. Together, we will create interactive tools to both elevate awareness about and engage our stakeholders in restoration projects identified in the Siuslaw River Coho Recovery Strategic Action Plan (Siuslaw SAP) 15 priority 6-field HUC watersheds within the Siuslaw River and Coastal Lakes watersheds. This project is needed so that SWC and its partners can more effectively communicate with others about the Siuslaw SAP's priority restoration projects. If we are to advance our work and complete future restoration projects, we must better communicate exactly why these projects are necessary, including sharing information about the positive economic, ecological, and social potential that these projects bring.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The StoryMap format proposed in the application can be a great communicative tool. It is user-friendly and intuitive.
- There is a need for more stakeholder engagement in the Siuslaw watershed to complement the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan developed as part of the Coho Business Planning process.

Concerns

- The application references the need for additional monitoring and visiting project sites to take photos. With many post-project photos already in existence as part of regular monitoring reporting requirements, this seems duplicative and inefficient.
- No details are provided on what sort of monitoring will be conducted and a strong case is not made for the need for additional monitoring to achieve the goals and objectives of the project. The monitoring has a fairly high cost (24k) with no details provided. Monitoring activities should be proposed in a monitoring application.
- The applicant proposes to conduct juvenile snorkel surveys, for which the applicant's qualifications to do so are in question and the goal the surveys would have in the stakeholder engagement is unclear.
- The application did not provide a clear link to how stakeholders in the watershed would be involved via the proposed effort.
- The price for the StoryMap seemed very high based on experience with similar projects.
- Much of the GIS data already exists and there is no need to acquire additional data. Partners in the watershed who could provide the data were not contacted.

Concluding Analysis

The review team recognized the need for more stakeholder engagement in the Siuslaw watershed, especially given the timeliness of the completion of the Strategic Action Plan for coho. The StoryMap tool is intuitive and user-friendly; however, the reviewers found no clear pathway within the application for how the StoryMap tool would be presented to landowners, and had difficulty envisioning the link by which landowners would become engaged with the tool and implement restoration projects. Given the high costs of StoryMap, it is likely that a more cost-effective and targeted form of engagement could be produced within the watershed. The plan to conduct additional monitoring was not well-described within the application. With a good deal of existing monitoring data and post-project photos already available, it is unclear how additional monitoring would engage the landowners in the watershed. They wanted to encourage the applicant to rethink this stakeholder engagement strategy, leverage partners and use existing data, and perhaps start with a smaller version of the project to discern whether a StoryMap is an effective tool to reach landowners in the Siuslaw.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1043-16057 **Project Type:** Stakeholder Engagement
Project Name: Arch Cape Community Forest
Applicant: Sustainable Northwest
Basin: North Coast **County:** Clatsop
OWEB Request: \$33,443 **Total Cost:** \$56,547

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The coastal community of Arch Cape (Clatsop County, HUC 17100202) faces ongoing challenges from logging activities in their drinking watershed. The community now proposes a stakeholder engagement project that will enable acquisition of 2,121 acres of coastal headlands. The outcome will be a Community Forest owned by the Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District and managed for clean and safe drinking water, increased local engagement with sustainable forestry, and the permanent protection of rare and wild species habitats. Community Forests are a public/private model of resource governance with a long history of practice in New England, Germany, and Nepal that rest on the central principles of local decision-making and permanent protection of conservation values. Management of the headwater timberlands to at least Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) practices will increase riparian buffers, diversify stand age structure, and limit pesticide applications compared to Oregon Forest Practices Act (OFPA) standards. This application represents a collaborative effort between the municipality's utility district (Arch Cape), the local Watershed Council (Ecola Creek), and a regional conservation organization (Sustainable Northwest). In addition, the Arch Cape Community Forest fits within the North Coast Land Conservancy's "Coastal Edge Campaign" as a vital piece of the puzzle, with coordination between groups occurring monthly. Our priority is to collect input from stakeholders and otherwise engage the broader community during the watershed acquisition and management planning process. This grant will fund a coast-based Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator reporting to the Arch Cape Water District and with grant administration provided by Sustainable Northwest.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project addresses a problem common on the north coast -- the vulnerability of small coastal watersheds that are flashy, surface water-driven systems that also provide drinking water for small communities.
- The applicant has created a sound approach to community engagement around protection of the city's watershed.
- The right partners are on board, and the group has been working with DEQ to monitor turbidity.
- The resulting conservation project could have excellent water quality benefits.
- The resulting restoration project could prevent future turbidity events

Concerns

- The turbidity issue addressed by the project is complex and it is unclear whether the conservation project would arrive at a solution.
- The application would have benefited from more details on the expected outcomes of the work.
- The objectives listed in the application were not measurable and could have been improved upon.
- The target audience was not well defined in the application- which landowners would be targeted? Is there a subset of the community already engaged with the project?

Concluding Analysis

The review team thought this project was a good first step toward addressing the issues surrounding the Arch Cape watershed and drinking water supply. The potential acquisition project could have excellent ecological benefit to native species and habitats and help protect the public drinking water source. These types of watersheds are common on the north coast, and are prone to water quality issues. The neighboring community of Cannon Beach has also taken steps to conserve their watershed, and this effort will continue that momentum on the coast.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 1

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$33,443

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

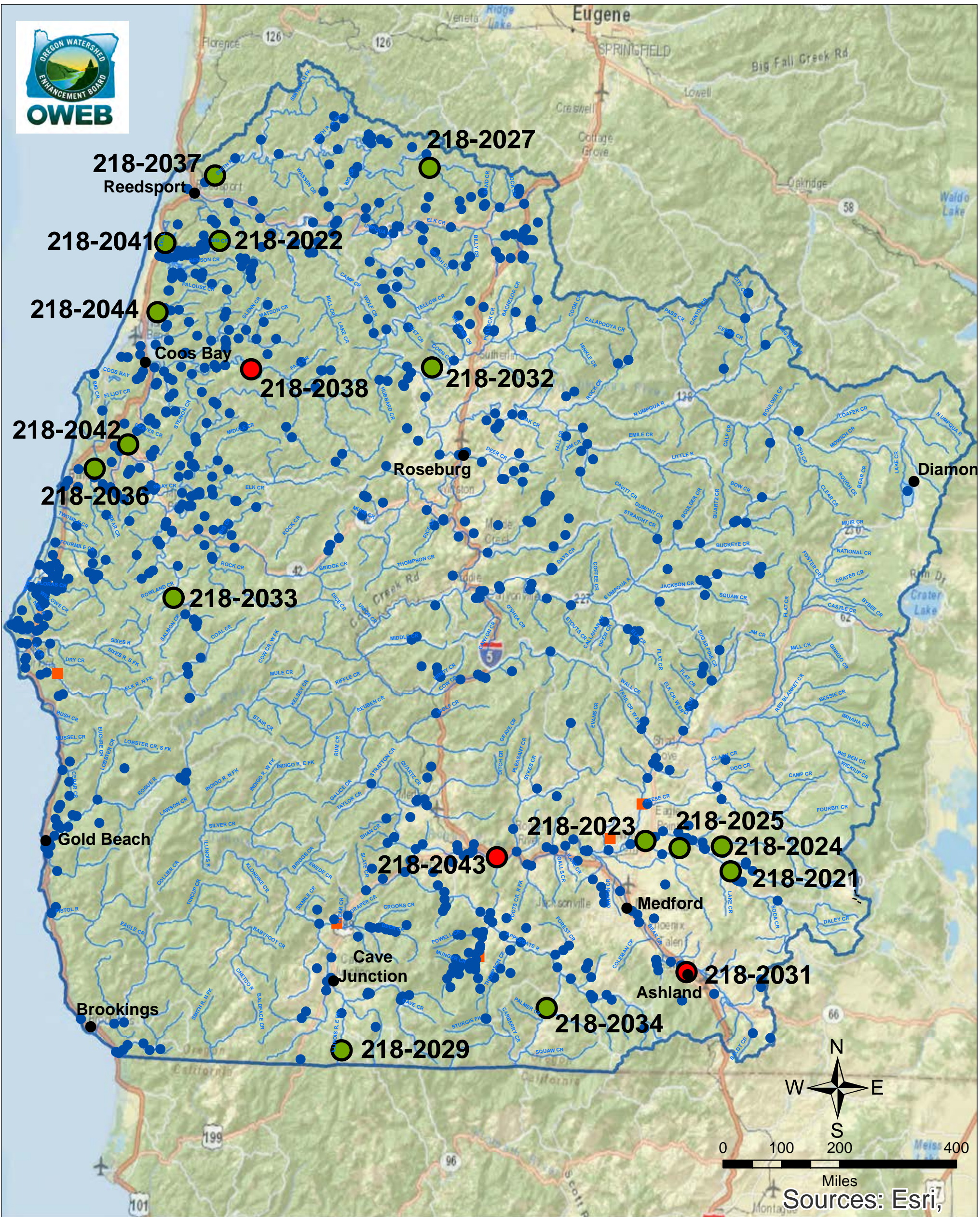
Staff Recommended Amount

\$33,443

Staff Conditions

None

Southwest - Region 2 Fall 2017 Funding Recommendations



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 Software: ESRI ArcMap 10.2, Oregon Lambert Projection, NAD 83, WKID 2992, OWEB- PK Wills Fall 20180326

Fall 2017 Applications

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants - 1998-Spring 2017

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- ~ Streams
- Region 1 Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

775 Summer St, NE Suite 360
 Salem, OR 97301-1290
 (503) 986-0178
<http://oregon.gov/OWEB/>

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Region 2 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Region 2 - Southwest Oregon | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-2024 | Rogue River Watershed Council | Salt Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project | The project will remove two of Salt Creek's seven high priority push up dams by installing an upgraded system which does not require the use of push dam to divert water. Project will help restore access for coho and other native fishes to roughly 7.5 miles of cold water habitat. Salt Creek is a tributary to Little Butte Creek located approximately one half mile above Lake Creek. | 58,981 | Jackson |
| 218-2021 | The Freshwater Trust | South Fork Little Butte Creek Instream and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project | Project work will include riparian restoration and improve side-channel habitat conditions through large wood placement on a reach of South Fork Little Butte Creek approximately 1 mile above Lake Creek. Project work will improve water quality and instream habitat conditions for coho and other native fish species. | 232,518 | Jackson |
| 218-2027 | Smith River Watershed Council | South Fork Smith River and Halfway Creek Instream Restoration | This project seeks to improve instream habitat conditions by placing large wood and boulder complexes in South Fork Smith River and Halfway Creek across 8.5 miles of stream. The project area is located in the upper Smith River, 10 miles to the north of Elkton, Oregon, and project activities will benefit coho and other native fish species. | 478,560 | Douglas |
| 218-2025 | Rogue River Valley Irrigation | Bradshaw Drop Mainline Piping Project | Project work would support Phase 2 of Bradshaw drop piping project located about 7 miles North of Eagle Point. The project would see the remaining upper 2 miles of open ditched piped. The piping of the upper section would provide the drop in order to pressurize the system which would allow landowners to convert from flood to pressurized irrigation, which provides substantial water quality benefits. Piping would also reduce water loss due to evaporation and leaky ditches. | 150,000 | Jackson |
| 218-2022 | Cascade Pacific RC&D | Plum Gultch Habitat Improvement | The project proposes to restore a 1 mile section of Plum Gulch, a tributary to Big Creek located in the Tenmile Lakes watershed near Lakeside. The project will remove invasive blackberries and replant the area with native tree species as well as place large wood structures instream along 1 mile of creek to improve water quality and instream habitat conditions for coho and other native fish species. | 24,054 | Douglas |
| 218-2023 | Rogue River Watershed Council | Little Butte Creek Floodplain Connectivity Project at RM 2.2 | This project is a result of an OWEB TA project (217-2023) and will implement riparian restoration and channel stability activities through instream structure placement and side channel reconnection on Little Butte Creek 1 mile below the City Of Eagle Point. Project work will help to improve instream habitat conditions and improve water quality for coho and other native fish species. | 160,190 | Jackson |
| Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff | | | | 1,104,303 | |

Region 2 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Restoration Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| None | | | None | | |
| Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | 1,104,303 | |
| Restoration Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount Requested | County | |
| 218-2026 | South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership | Stouts Creek Whole Watershed Restoration Phase I | 86,716 | Douglas | |
| 218-2028 | Coos Watershed Association | Daniels Creek Riparian Restoration Project | 97,155 | Coos | |

Region 2 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-2037 | Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers | Glover Tidegate Replacement and Channel Re-meander TA | This project will provide the support for development of project details and engineering necessary for final project design to replace tidegates and implement restoration actions on a ranch property located in the Umpqua River Estuary, near the communities of Gardiner and Reedsport. The restoration plan for the property includes plans for fish passage, water management to provide fish habitat, livestock management and fencing of the channels, native vegetation planting and restoration monitoring. | 55,743 | Douglas |
| 218-2033 | Coquille Watershed Association | Baker Creek Culvert Removal Technical Assistance | This Technical Assistance project will complete the ongoing engineering phase of the project and result in final designs, construction costs, and permitting to support the removal of a fish blocking culvert located on Baker Creek, a tributary to the South Fork Coquille River located near Powers. The barrier is located 626' upstream from the confluence restricting access by coho and native fish species to 2.0 miles of habitat. | 40,683 | Coos |
| 218-2034 | Applegate Partnership, Inc. | McKee Dam Irrigation and Fish Passage Improvement Study | This project will develop alternatives and preliminary designs for improving fish passage, irrigation efficiency, and fish screening at McKee Dam (Newberry Dam), an active diversion structure and fish passage barrier at river mile 40.4 on the Applegate River. McKee Dam impedes adult passage and completely blocks juvenile access. In addition to impacting several native fish species, the dam suppresses access by coho to 20.2 miles of habitat. | 47,272 | Jackson |
| 218-2032 | Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers | Burke Creek Technical Assistance | The project proposes to develop project designs to support riparian restoration and instream habitat structure placements on Burke Creek, located west of Sutherlin. Burke Creek is home to coho salmon and other native fish species and enters Calapooya Creek near its confluence with the mainstem Umpqua River. | 21,480 | Douglas |
| 218-2029 | Illinois Valley Watershed Council | Page Creek Analysis and Design | Project seeks to accomplish a complete channel, habitat, and riparian forest restoration design package for use in restoration project development and implementation that directly address key limiting stresses for a one mile reach of lower Page Creek located near O'Brien. | 36,199 | Josephine |
| 218-2036 | Coos SWCD | North Bank Working Landscapes and Habitat Restoration Project | This project will provide the support for development of project technical support activities necessary for final project design to replace tidegates and implement restoration actions on a 43 acre ranch property located on the Coquille River approximately 7 river miles from Bandon. | 58,333 | Coos |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff | | | | 259,710 | |

Region 2 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Technical Assistance Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-2031 | Rogue River Watershed Council | Smith Meyer Roper Fish Passage Improvement Project Design | This proposal will undertake tasks necessary to develop design alternatives and select the preferred alternative for fish passage improvements on the Smith Meyer Rope Diversion located at stream mile 1.5 on Ashland Creek in Ashland. Approximately 2 miles of stream currently has restricted access for coho adults and completed blocked for juveniles as well as other native migratory species. | 20,393 | Jackson |
| 218-2038 | Coos Watershed Association | South Fork Coos River Road Inventory and Sediment Reduction | This grant will fund a road inventory to evaluate approximately 240 miles of roads that drain directly to the South Fork Coos River and it's tributaries. The project will provide 3 types of data: (1) estimated road sediment yield and hydrological connectivity; (2) identify needs, prioritization, and layouts for road improvements, or decommissions; (3) a road features GIS database to be used for long term asset management. The South Fork Coos River and its tributaries support numerous species of anadromous salmonids and resident fish including coho. | 65,166 | Coos |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | 345,269 | |
| Technical Assistance Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount Requested | County | |
| 218-2035 | Applegate Partnership, Inc. | Million Dollar Mile Subsurface Hydrologic Mapping on Forest Creek | 14,773 | Jackson | |
| 218-2039 | Curry SWCD | South Coast Lidar 2018 | 75,000 | Curry | |
| 218-2040 | Curry SWCD | Floras Creek Sediment Abatement Road Inventory | 26,697 | Curry | |

Region 2 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| None | | | | | |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff | | | | 0 | |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| None | | None | | | |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT | | | | 0 | |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount Requested | County | |
| 218-2045 | American Forest Foundation | Oregon Woodland Owner Engagement Project | 74,782 | Jackson | |

Region 2 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-2044 | Coos Watershed Association | Coho Life History and Migrations in Tide Gated Lowland Coastal Streams 2018-2020 | This project renews and refines long-term monitoring, initiated in 2004, which examines coho salmon abundance, survival, life histories and habitat use in Palouse and Willanch Creek, two tide gated coastal lowland streams in the Coos Bay estuary. This project enhances PIT tag mark-recapture-release techniques and expands Rotary Screw Trap sampling methods to more effectively monitor coho life cycles, evaluate seasonal tidal habitat use and assess fish passage effectiveness at an upgraded tide gate. | 229,549 | Coos |
| 218-2042 | Coquille Watershed Association | Winter Lake Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring | The Winter Lake Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring Project will evaluate the effectiveness of the Winter Lake Restoration Project located off the mainstem Coquille River at RM 20 near Coquille. The monitoring project will collect data on the changes observed due to the tidegate replacement and restoration and at a reference location for four years post-implementation. Parameters include: fish passage, fish habitat quality and quantity, water, water level, vegetation, and fish | 282,596 | Coos |
| 218-2041 | Cascade Pacific RC&D | Eel Creek Pacific Lamprey Passage Effectiveness Monitoring | Project partners propose to conduct effectiveness monitoring of new fish passage designs and resulting projects and how Pacific Lamprey passage is affected. Project sites are within the Eel Lake watershed near Lakeside. Project work will also monitor the movements, holding habitats, barrier issues, and habitat use of Pacific Lamprey within the basin. | 56,666 | Coos |
| Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff | | | | 568,811 | |

Region 2 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Monitoring Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|---|-------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | | Amount | County |
| 218-2043 | Klamath Bird Observatory | Using Bird Monitoring to Evaluate Effectiveness of Riparian Restoration in the Rogue Basin | Project partners propose a pilot project to use avian monitoring data and a focal species approach to evaluate effectiveness of and improve riparian restoration in the Rogue Basin. Existing standardized bird monitoring techniques will be adapted for their use for smaller-scale sites already restored in the Bear Creek and Little Butte Creek watersheds. | 26,926 | Jackson |
| Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT | | | | 595,737 | |
| Monitoring Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | | Amount | County |
| None | | | | | |
| Region 2 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award | | | | 1,932,824 | 18% |
| Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award | | | | 10,753,978 | |

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2021-15927

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: South Fork Little Butte Creek
Instream and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project

Applicant: The Freshwater Trust

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$229,018

Total Cost: \$691,968

Project Abstract *(from application)*

South Fork and North Fork Little Butte Creek form Little Butte Creek near the town of Lake Creek, eventually joining the Rogue River after flowing through Eagle Point near Medford in Jackson County. Little Butte basin has a 303(d) listing that includes temperature, bacteria and sedimentation. Altered hydrologic regimes from agricultural water delivery and withdrawal; removal and degradation of forests from residential, industrial, forestry, and agricultural land-use practices; lack of large wood and channel complexity; simplification and confinement of stream channels for transportation and development infrastructure; and sedimentation and nutrient pollution have contributed to lowered water quality and habitat conditions. In 2016, The Freshwater Trust (TFT) initiated a two-phase effort to restore mainstem and side channel habitat on private land (river miles 1.15 - 1.75) on South Fork Little Butte Creek. Phase I included installation of mainstem large wood structures and riparian revegetation completed with funding from US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). OWEB funding would support Phase II, which will 1) Reactivate flow to 0.35 miles of side channel fed seasonally by the mainstem and an unnamed tributary; 2) Install 7 large wood structures within the reactivated side channel and at its inlet; 3) Treat noxious weeds and revegetate riparian floodplain with native plants; and 4) Install livestock exclusion fencing. The proposed side channel restoration will work in concert with the mainstem actions to enhance overall watershed benefits. TFT will partner with the site's landowner (C2 Cattle Company) and US Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is a resubmit, and the applicant addressed previous comments regarding reed canary grass and channel modeling. The applicant is taking a thoughtful and innovative approach to restoring this site.
- The application made the case for investing in seven years of plant establishment efforts.
- Cattle exclusion from the project site is included in the project design.
- Applicant has a good working relationship with landowners.
- The project builds on other efforts in the area and will provide improved off channel habitat that will benefit SONC Coho.

- The project will benefit water quality. The applicant is encouraged to consider employing temperature monitoring devices in the side channel around structures and at the top of the project site to determine whether pool creation results in cooler water temperatures through stratification in the pools or hyporheic flow.

Concerns

- Applicant cannot use work to meet requirements of the Bureau of Reclamation Bi-op.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant addressed evaluation comments from the previous review, and has taken a very thoughtful and innovative approach to restoration at this site. Project work will address two critical limiting factors in Little Butte Creek, including water quality and habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

2 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$232,518

Review Team Conditions

Add up to \$3,500 to support temperature monitoring in the side channel. Work cannot be used to meet requirements of Bureau of Reclamation Bi-op.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$232,518

Staff Conditions

Add \$3,500 to support temperature monitoring in the side channel. Work cannot be used to meet

requirements of Bureau of Reclamation Bi-op.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2022-15929

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Plum Gulch Habitat Improvement

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$24,054

Total Cost: \$35,342

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Plum Gulch is a tributary of Big Creek that flows into North Tenmile Lake, east of Lakeside in Southwest Oregon. It is located in the Elliott State Forest and managed within the 51 acre Big Creek Meadow Lease Area. Historic management practices have left Plum Gulch with no large wood and impacted riparian zones. This lack of functioning riparian vegetation and limited large wood results in poor rearing habitat. Plum Gulch has high intrinsic value for Coho and Pacific Lamprey and is identified in the Tenmile Watershed Large wood Sub-basin Plan (TLBP 2016) and draft Tenmile Basin 30year Pacific Lamprey Conservation Plan (TLBP/CTCLUSI) as a high priority for restoration. Due to The Elliott State Forest Project, this important project as well as others within the Forest were suspended. In October 2017, TLBP received permission to submit this proposal. The Big Creek Meadow Resource Group that includes DSL, ODFW, TLBP, and Lessee Gary Wallace propose to improve Plum Gulch habitat by mechanically removing and replanting a 3 acre blackberry infestation with native willow, Oregon Ash, and Willow as well placing 20 logs in five sites. Engineered log jams will be placed in 1 mile of Plum Gulch above the current exclusion fencing and successful riparian improvements. OWEB funds will be utilized to support project management, contracted services, materials/supplies, and administration.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant has been focusing on agricultural lands in the lower watershed, and implementing fish passage, riparian, and livestock exclusion projects. This proposal is their first large wood placement project.
- The project builds on successful livestock exclusion and riparian restoration work in the project area.
- This stream supports Coho and has high intrinsic potential.
- Large wood and overwintering habitat are limiting factors and this project will address these issues. Also, there is potential for natural large wood recruitment, and this large wood placement project will likely serve as collectors of future wood in the system.

Concerns

- Some of the wood to be used is very large for the stream channel. This material was chosen because it is from an area close to the project site. Since the project has an experienced design team, this will not likely be an issue for the project to be successful.

- Since the project includes installing logs upstream of a bridge crossing, there needs to be careful consideration in placement to allow enough distance to prevent potential damage to the crossing.

Concluding Analysis

The project was originally funded and set for implementation; however, it was terminated at ODF and DSL direction due to the impending sale of Elliott State Forest. Since this sale process is no longer moving forward, DSL is now managing the Elliott State Forest and has agreed to move forward with the project. The project is ready for implementation and will address a critical limiting factor for Coho in this area.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$24,054

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$24,054

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2023-15932

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Little Butte Creek Floodplain
Connectivity Project at RM 2.2

Applicant: Rogue River WC

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$160,190

Total Cost: \$255,190

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed project is located on property owned by the City of Eagle Point at river mile 2.2-2.5 of Little Butte Creek. Little Butte Creek is a large tributary to the upper Rogue River in Jackson County. The watershed is adversely affected by poor water quality and hydrologic modification. Despite limited conditions, Little Butte Creek remains a priority stream for endangered Coho Salmon recovery. Little Butte Creek also contributes seasonal drinking water supply for over 136,000 Rogue Valley residents. Limiting factors in this reach include: - Loss of floodplain and side channel connectivity- Reduced channel complexity- Poor water quality- Degraded riparian forest conditions Restoration components of this project include: - Reconnect Little Butte Creek with its floodplain by selectively breaching a berm, creating a side channel, and re-contouring eroded stream banks - Increase floodplain roughness and habitat complexity by constructing 4 engineered log jams in the bank and installing 10 small log jams in newly connected floodplain/side channel- Improve streamside forest conditions along a 1,500-foot reach This project seeks to improve water quality and enhance the quality and quantity of winter rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids. The City of Eagle Point wants to rehabilitate the land for use as a community park and nature trail. The reach is near the Denman Wildlife Area where a large scale channel restoration project with similar objectives was completed in 2011. The proposal originates from technical assistance funding awarded by the Drinking Water Provider Partnership in 2016. It represents input from a technical team of agency hydrologists and biologists, City of Eagle Point planning staff and Cascade Stream Solutions, the technical assistance provider. Specific partners include the City of Eagle Point, Medford Water Commission, BLM, and OWEB who is providing funding for permit related activities under grant 217-2023.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is the result of an OWEB Technical Assistance project.
- While the City has completed some outreach, additional public outreach will occur during project implementation. The project will continue to serve as an outreach tool in the future.
- Riparian plantings will have summer watering through existing water rights.
- This restoration will benefit water quality, which is a critical limiting factor in this watershed.
- Coho will benefit from this restoration work.
- The project design resulted from a strong technical team approach.

Concerns

- While the project exceeds required match, the City's match contribution is limited even though the City will benefit as the landowner.
- The project has a bank stabilization component to the project. Since bioengineering techniques are utilized in the design, there should be meaningful watershed benefits gained beyond just bank stabilization.
- The cost per mile is higher compared to other similar projects. However, given the size of the area to be restored and higher costs due to challenges with implementing restoration in an urban area, this cost may be reasonable for the benefits.

Concluding Analysis

This project addresses symptoms of a much larger watershed problem that extends beyond the project reach, and is the result of channelization, diking, and urbanization upstream. These impacts will not likely be resolved except through a site-by-site approach such as this proposed restoration. The project is proactive and timely because restoration will be implemented before a sports park development begins. Project activities will address water quality issues impacting the watershed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$160,190

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$160,190

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2024-15937

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Salt Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project

Applicant: Rogue River WC

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$58,981

Total Cost: \$88,110

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed project is located on private property on Salt Creek, a cool-water tributary to Little Butte Creek. Salt Creek is one of just a few major producers of ESA-listed Coho Salmon in the Rogue Basin. It also contains healthy populations of fall Chinook Salmon, summer and winter steelhead, and resident Cutthroat Trout. Spring fed, Salt Creek maintains cold water temperatures throughout the summer months providing essential over-summering habitat for both Coho Salmon and steelhead. Fish passage restoration is a cornerstone action to address limiting factors in the Rogue Basin. Removal of smaller barriers is essential to improving salmonid access to tributary streams. During the summer months, tributary streams provide refuge from warm stream temperatures in the larger streams and during winter, provide refugia from high winter flows. Nine diversion dams block roughly 7.5 miles of high quality habitat on Salt Creek. Seven of these nine structures are listed as high priority by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) 2013 review of priority fish passage barriers in the Rogue. With full support of the private landowner, the proposed project seeks funding to remove two of Salt Creek's seven high priority push up dams by reprofiling the existing ditch system, resetting the invert of the fish screen at two sites, an installing two new headgates, concrete intakes, and piping the existing open ditch flows. The project partners include ODFW, NOAA, Oregon Water Resources Department, Jackson SWCD, BLM, Rogue Basin Partnership, Cascade Stream Solutions, and a private landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant is building a strong track record of addressing fish passage issues on private lands.
- Improving access to cold water refugia for Coho, and other native species, in a system limited by high summer water temperatures is critical work. Since cold water refugia is in limited supply in the project section of Little Butte Creek, providing access to over seven miles of cold water habitat is a priority.
- This work will improve irrigation efficiency, and flow meters will be installed with funding. While the primary project benefit is fish access, finding opportunities for water conservation with irrigation improvements is also important.
- The project is located on an important tributary, and restoring fish passage will provide potential for future restoration projects.
- Currently, there is considerable restoration focus on the Little Butte Creek system and this project fits in well with these efforts.

Concerns

- The budget has lump sums. The application would benefit from budget detail for activities, budget development, and appropriateness of costs.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant has established a strong track record of identifying restoration projects, working with landowners, and designing and implementing fish access projects on private lands. This project builds on and continues momentum generated by other projects in the area and has a high likelihood of resulting in other restoration opportunities. This restoration work will restore access to seven miles of critical cold water refugia for Coho and other native species.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$58,981

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$58,981

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2025-15948

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Bradshaw Drop Mainline Piping Project

Applicant: Rogue River Valley Irrigation District

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$150,000

Total Cost: \$5,546,556

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Little Butte Creek Watershed is in Jackson County and is considered one of the prime spawning tributaries for salmonids, especially Coho. However, Little Butte Creek and its tributary, Antelope Creek, are also water quality limited for a variety of factors that negatively impact fish and wildlife, including sedimentation, bacteria and temperature. The Rogue River Valley and Medford Irrigation Districts divert water from Little Butte Creek through a shared canal. That canal splits at the top of Bradshaw Drop, about 5 miles from Eagle Point. The area from Bradshaw Drop to Antelope Creek, which is approximately 3.15 miles and completely within RRVID's jurisdiction, has substantial leakage. RRVID has collaborated with the Bureau of Reclamation to leave (not divert) 7 CFS of water from Little Butte Creek during the month of June in median water years to benefit Coho, but must pipe this stretch of canal to achieve sufficient water savings to leave that water instream. The piping of this section will also provide pressurized water to RRVID's patrons within this stretch. Many of these patrons have been unable to convert to sprinkler irrigation because of the cost of bringing electricity to the site. Pressurized water makes conversion possible, which previous work in the watershed has shown has a substantial effect on water quality. Current partners for this WISE Demonstration Project include the BOR, Governor's RIF, Or. DEQ, Jackson SWCD, Or. NRCS, Farmer's Conservation Alliance (FSA), Three Sisters Irrigation District, and WISE.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project, while a stand-alone for the applicant, ties into the larger WISE project effort and could serve as a demonstration project for that work.
- The application presents a well thought out project with a high likelihood of successful implementation.
- The budget is straightforward and detailed.
- The Phase I project is funded by BOR.
- South Sisters Irrigation District is providing oversight and contracted services for the pipe installation. They have the equipment and experience to implement this project in a successful manner.
- Improving water quality and stream flows in the Little Butte Creek watershed is a priority. Water quality and water quantity represent two critical limiting factors in this system.

- This is a high priority project for NRCS and Jackson SWCD. NRCS is currently developing a focus area with landowners for irrigation. Additionally, 13 of 14 landowners currently on the ditch are working with Jackson SWCD to develop on-farm plans in anticipation of installing a pressurized system. Pressurized systems will allow conversion from flood to other more efficient irrigation systems, which will also improve water quality in Antelope Creek.
- Jackson SWCD is monitoring water quality above and below the project area on Antelope Creek. It will be important for project partners to work with other agencies to continue and expand these efforts to look at flow and fish use in the areas of the project footprint.
- This Phase 2 project is critical to the on-farm projects because without it the system cannot be pressurized.
- There currently are a number of efforts underway in Little Butte creek to improve water quality, water quantity, fish passage, and instream habitat; and this project fits in with those efforts.

Concerns

- Water quantity in the form of instream flows clearly needs to be a project deliverable. There are a number of variables that affect quantifying water savings from this project; from unknown water loss due to leaky ditches and evaporation to inputs to the ditch from a leaky upstream ditch and springs and side draw. As a result, it is likely the true potential for water savings cannot be known until the project is implemented. Water savings could result with instream flows in South Fork Little Butte or Antelope Creek; or possibly times releases during critical times could be initiated. For the project to have a reasonable cost-benefit there needs to be demonstrable benefits to instream flows from water that will be saved or conserved from the piping process. The applicant is encouraged to look at the findings and recommendations from the WISE Instream Committee developed under the Oregon Solutions project.
- Phase I deliverables are somewhat unclear from the application and specifically the 7cfs of flow being left instream in South Fork Little Butte during median (average) flow years is unclear. BOR is required to provide this cfs as a result of their Bi-op. The Phase 2 project described in this OWEB application cannot be used to meet the BOR Bi-op requirements

Concluding Analysis

There is a lot of interest and work being undertaken in the Little Butte system to improve water quantity, water quality, access, habitat, and stream health. This project fits in with those other efforts and has potential to serve as a demonstration project for the larger WISE effort. The application is clear and presents a technically sound case, clear budget, reasonable overall cost, and high likelihood of success. This Phase 2 project will provide the high pressurized system that is critical to achieving on-farm irrigation improvement planning already underway. Improving water quality in Antelope Creek is a priority and this benefit will be realized after the on-farm irrigation improvements are completed. This work has potential for recruiting future restoration projects with these landowners. Piping the ditch will result in some water savings. However, a number of variables, including lack of data, make it difficult to determine what that savings may be. Regardless, this project needs to result in a tangible benefit to instream flows in South Fork Little Butte creek or Antelope Creek; or through some sort of time releases once the project is completed. It will be vital for RRVID to work with OWRD and ODFW on this effort. The monitoring data by Jackson SWCD and landowners on Antelope Creek could also be a helpful resource for this discussion.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

4 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$150,000

Review Team Conditions

Work cannot be used to meet requirements of Bureau of Reclamation Bi-op. The project must include some method for quantifying, protecting and monitoring water savings.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$150,000

Staff Conditions

Work cannot be used to meet requirements of Bureau of Reclamation Bi-op. Applicant must work with a technical team that consists of, but is not limited to, OWEB, ODFW, and OWRD, to quantify, protect and monitor anticipated water savings.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2026-15999

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Stouts Creek Whole Watershed
Restoration Phase I

Applicant: South Umpqua Rural Community
Partnership

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$86,716

Total Cost: \$189,003

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership (SURCP) has joined with the Roseburg BLM to assist with the recovery of a significant tributary to the South Umpqua River--Stout's Creek. This sub-watershed was a victim of a serious fire in 2015, burning more than 26,000 acres. Landslides and debris flows in the creek have become commonplace during the previous two winters, resulting in public safety hazards and a lack of LWD and boulders in the channel. Through collaboration with private landowners, we have developed a multi-phase project which will reduce landslides, repair the riparian area, restore salmonid habitat, and bring the overall health of the watershed to acceptable levels. The first phase of this project will concentrate on the lower 1 1/2 miles of Stout's Creek, owned by seven families as well as the BLM. Here we will place LWD and boulders in large structures designed to collect gravel and stabilize the stream channel. Additional phases will occur on private and public lands in the upper reaches of the watershed and will result in the complete restoration of Stout's Creek. The project has been designed and is ready for implementation. All boulders and the majority of the LWD required for the project has been donated by the Roseburg BLM. Time is of the essence as the soils in this area are highly granitic and thus unstable.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project demonstrates the power of partnerships and what can be accomplished in a short time to address natural disasters like fires.
- Restoring riparian and instream habitat will be very important to recovery after the fire, help stabilize conditions, and support Coho and native fish species recovery as well as water quality conditions.
- There is urgency to this project since the large wood to be used has a "shelf life" due to being partially burned in the fire.
- The project includes a revegetation plan that has a high probability of success.

Concerns

- The project does not have involvement from industrial timber.
- Since the project is described as "Phase I" and the application references future phases, the application would benefit from some description of these other phases to provide project context.

- The project reach is characterized by having an existing road system in close proximity to the stream as well as being situated in a narrow and constrained valley. The lower section of the stream has seven private residences located just above the confluence of Stouts Creek and East Stouts Creek. Following the fire, a log jam developed on the upper residence and had to be removed to protect the house and access bridge. Placing large wood structures in the same vicinity could have similar risks due to the amount of material that could still move downstream as the watershed recovers from the fire. It may be difficult to have engineers sign off on the structures because of liability concerns. The applicant and partners should consider a technical assistance grant to address these concerns as well as flesh out future phases.

Concluding Analysis

This project is in response to a catastrophic wildfire that burned nearly 100% of the watershed. Project partners rapidly responded to develop actions that could help restore and protect the watershed as it recovers from the event. The riparian work is well designed; however, the instream work could potentially have unintended consequences. The applicant is encouraged to consider using a technical assistance proposal to work on design as well as help with future phase.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2027-16022

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: South Fork Smith River and
Halfway Creek Instream Restoration

Applicant: Smith River WC

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$478,560

Total Cost: \$838,075

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project area is located in the upper Smith River, 10 miles to the north of Elkton Oregon and 15 miles west of Springfield Oregon. This project seeks to improve instream habitat conditions degraded by past land use practices. SRWC, ODFW and two BLM Districts have worked collaboratively to design log and boulder structures to slow water velocities, increase sediment deposition, trap large wood and contribute to recovery of aquatic populations.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is supported by partnerships and an experienced design team.
- The restoration work addresses limiting factors for Coho and other native species.
- Project support is demonstrated with match. While the overall project cost is large, the cost benefit for the restoration is a good value.
- Project will be straightforward to permit.
- Large wood placement sites have been identified and designed. Access locations for construction have been identified and plans are in place to minimize intrusion into the riparian area as well as restoring those access sites.
- Riparian areas in the project reach and above the project site are high quality, and there is a high potential for future recruitment of large wood into the stream.

Concerns

- The project would be strengthened by the inclusion of the industrial timber company that has property in the project area. This would increase the impact of the work.

Concluding Analysis

The project continues successful efforts by the applicant and partners to improve instream habitat conditions and provide overwintering opportunities for juvenile Coho salmon, and other native species, within the Smith River watershed. A portion of the project is an area with previous attempts at placing large wood instream well over a decade ago. Little remains of these structures, and the large wood that

does remain is not functioning optimally. Large wood placement project designs and approaches have changed greatly since then, as a result this current project will ensure these areas have properly designed and placed structures with boulders incorporated into them that maintain their integrity. The proposed project has a high likelihood of success and will benefit many native species dependent upon the system.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$478,560

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$478,560

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2028-16045

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Daniels Creek Riparian Restoration Project

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$97,155

Total Cost: \$139,036

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Daniels Creek drains into the South Fork Coos River, immediately upstream of its confluence with the Millicoma River, 11 miles east of Coos Bay, Coos County. The landowners are active land stewards who take great pride in their role in helping to rehabilitate native fish populations and overall stream function to the basin. Daniels Creek provides both spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook/coho and other resident trout and other salmonid species. This system has been heavily impacted by past and current land management practices which have resulted in the removal of riparian vegetation. The project site contains moderate habitat with natural pools and downed wood. The reach has high intrinsic value for coho, but it is limited by lack of shade and deposition of fine sediment. This project proposes to stabilize banks and restore riparian function through riparian planting and fencing 2,300' of stream. The riparian buffer will be planted with native trees and shrub that will stabilize the bank, shade out invasive reed canary grass, improve water quality, and decrease stream temperatures. This project will complement a previous OWEB riparian planting project on the opposite bank (206-1016, 206-1027; 210-2073). Plant establishment activities will occur for 5 years after the planting to insure a goal of 80% plant survival. OWEB funds will be used for project management, contracted services, plant establishment, travel, project materials, and indirect costs. Landowner and OYCC match will cover a portion of contracted services and fully fund an 8-member youth crew for plant stewardship activities.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project involves enthusiastic and willing landowners.
- The restoration will benefit Coho as well as beaver present in the area.
- The project area has high visibility.
- This work could lead to recruiting additional landowner interest in undertaking restoration on their properties.

Concerns

- The project includes seasonal solar electric fencing, which requires a long-term commitment for the landowner to install and remove it seasonally. Since the application is unclear on the long-term management vision for the property, this may not be the right approach for the landowner situation

- It is unclear whether CREP was considered as an option.
- The chosen stock water approach is instream, which will still impact water quality. The applicant and landowner are encouraged to consider out of channel options, such as solar powered trough systems.

Concluding Analysis

The landowner enthusiasm is a project strength, and the proposed restoration has merit and value as well as outreach potential. However, project design approaches should demonstrate the best restoration options for accomplishing the work and protecting some of the high habitat value areas. If application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to consider the following: (1) utilizing CREP; (2) utilizing solar powered stock tanks that would eliminate the livestock access to the stream currently allowed in the project design by the rocked access points; and (3) utilizing more permanent fencing options that could meet both landowner and stream protection needs. Investigating these options could result in a more impactful project that still addresses the landowner's management needs and vision for the property while providing a higher cost benefit for the restoration investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2029-15923

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Page Creek Analysis and Design

Applicant: Illinois Valley WC

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Josephine

OWEB Request: \$36,199

Total Cost: \$56,701

Project Abstract *(from application)*

A tributary of the East Fork Illinois River, Page Creek is approximately 12 miles south of Cave Junction near the town of Takilma. Page Creek has high intrinsic potential (IP) for ESA listed SONCC ESU coho salmon. The Illinois River has a core, functionally independent population of SONCC ESU coho salmon at high risk of extinction. Altered hydrologic function and degraded riparian forest conditions are the documented key limiting stresses for that species in the subbasin (NOAA, 2014). The applicant seeks funding to partner with Rogue River - Siskiyou NF aquatics team to collaboratively collect and analyze resource data, consider design alternatives that directly address key limiting stresses, and determine and develop a recommended restoration strategy into a complete 100% design package for stream and habitat restoration for a one-half mile reach of Page Creek. The stream, habitat, and riparian forest restoration design produced will directly address stresses and recovery strategies of the Final Recovery Plan for the SONCC ESU of Coho Salmon (NOAA, 2014) and priority restoration actions of the Rogue River - Siskiyou National Forest's Watershed Restoration Action Plan for the East Fork Illinois River watershed (USFS, 2014). Negative effects of historic land use practices in Page Creek include channel modification, alteration of the riparian vegetative community (including introduction of invasive species), reduction of off-channel habitat features, and reduction of large wood recruitment. The resulting straightened and simplified channel is mostly disconnected from its floodplain. Natural process and function has been significantly compromised, limiting the ability of coho salmon to fully utilize Page Creek's high intrinsic potential. A stream, habitat, and riparian forest restoration project that restores Page Creek to desired and self-sustaining conditions will be developed by the IVWC from the design produced by this project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Illinois River system is an important area for SONC Coho spawning and rearing.
- The application demonstrates project participants have a team partnership approach and relevant experience.
- The project area is a good candidate for large wood placement because it is a priority watershed with good water quality, but habitat is limiting.
- Resulting restoration activities will help address watershed factors limiting to Coho.
- The project is part of a larger restoration effort in this sub-basin.

- There is a high degree of confidence this technical assistance product that will lead to on-the-ground restoration efforts.

Concerns

- The application lacked specific details on project implementation and relied on assumptions of familiarity with USFS technical team processes and work.
- The role of the technical team in the project process was not well explained.
- This project is highly dependent upon future in-kind match from consultants.
- A letter of support from the USFS would have been helpful.

Concluding Analysis

The proposal builds on a strong working relationship developed between the applicant and the USFS. Both parties are working together on restoration efforts upstream of the proposed project area. There is a high probability that meaningful restoration projects will result from this proposal. Future applications would be strengthened by project implementation specifics as well as information on habitat conditions above and below the project reach. The applicant is strongly encouraged to incorporate irrigation efficiency that improves instream flows into the project planning and landowner outreach.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$36,199

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$36,199

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2031-15935

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Smith Meyer Roper Fish Passage Improvement Project Design

Applicant: Rogue River WC

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$20,393

Total Cost: \$36,432

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed fish passage project is on Ashland Creek, a tributary to Bear Creek in the upper Rogue Basin in Jackson County, Oregon. Ashland Creek's perennial flow and relatively cold water is both unique and considerably important to the Bear Creek watershed. It provides habitat for Coho Salmon, steelhead trout and other native fishes. Near river-mile 1.5 on Ashland Creek is an actively used irrigation structure called the Smith Meyer Roper Diversion. This channel spanning, concrete dam is approximately 2.5 feet in height and impairs access to approximately 2 miles of valuable Coho Salmon and steelhead spawning and rearing habitat. The dam is also considered a near complete barrier to upstream migrating juveniles seeking cold water refuge in summer and high flow refuge in winter. This proposal requests funding for tasks necessary to develop design alternatives and select the preferred alternative for fish passage improvements that benefit native migratory species. Other deliverables include stakeholder and technical expert engagement, construction cost estimate development, and construction permit application preparation. Project partners include the City of Ashland, Oregon Department of Wildlife, Rogue River Watershed Council, Cascade Stream Solutions, The Freshwater Trust, and private landowners and water users.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Restoring Coho access to spawning, rearing, and cold water refugia is a priority in Bear Creek; therefore, barriers are a major concern for this population of Coho.
- Ashland Creek is one of the few cold water habitat opportunities Coho have in this sub-basin.
- The project site was identified through a prioritization process and is a priority for this sub-watershed.
- The proposed design approach is technically sound and the engineer has relevant experience.
- The applicant has the capacity to undertake this type of work and a proven track record of success.
- This project offers a potential opportunity for improvements on farm uses as a benefit.

Concerns

- This project area is located mid-system in the Bear Creek watershed. There are known barriers below and above the project site that limit the project cost-benefit; the lower barriers have some fish passage improvements already completed.

- The application would benefit from including letters of support.
- The project focuses on addressing fish passage issues and does not examine irrigation efficiency opportunities associated with this fish passage work, and it is unclear why irrigation efficiency is not a consideration.

Concluding Analysis

Ashland Creek offers one of the few cold water refugia opportunities for salmonids in the Bear Creek watershed. Enabling fish access to this habitat is very important. The applicant is establishing an excellent track record of developing and implementing fish passage projects. The proposal is technically sound and has a high likelihood of resulting in an implementable project that can have meaningful benefits to salmonids using the Bear Creek system. The applicant is encouraged to look for opportunities to improve irrigation efficiency to potentially return water instream when considering future applications related to diversion dams.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$20,393

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2032-15939

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Burke Creek Technical Assistance

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$21,480

Total Cost: \$28,593

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Burke Creek flows through a working family ranch located west of Sutherlin in Douglas County. It is home to both coho salmon and winter steelhead and enters Calapooya Creek near its confluence with the mainstem Umpqua River. According to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) High Intrinsic Potential Maps, Burke Creek and an unnamed tributary located on the Baird property have high potential to provide quality spawning and rearing habitat for coho salmon and steelhead. However, fish production is limited by a lack of instream wood, poor riparian areas dominated by invasive blackberry and two failing culverts that are barriers to fish passage. The Baird family owns the land along a one-mile stretch of Burke Creek and approached PUR with the desire to improve watershed health by enhancing riparian and instream habitat and restoring fish passage at two failing culverts. The family will donate time to help develop the project and donate large wood for habitat structures. Downstream of the Baird Family Property, there is a culvert under a county road that is considered to be a partial barrier due to a perched culvert and lack of outlet pool. To address limiting factors to fish production in Burke Creek we are seeking OWEB TA funds to 1) complete site surveys at the two culverts, 2) produce bridge designs, 3) create a fencing/livestock exclusion plan, 4) develop a riparian management/blackberry eradication plan, 5) work with PUR Monitoring Coordinator to develop a monitoring plan, 6) work with the landowner on selecting materials for instream placement, 7) design instream fish habitat structures in order to enhance habitat on one mile of Burke Creek, 8) coordinate with Douglas County to prioritize the replacement of the County-owned culvert and 9) prepare the OWEB restoration grant application for submission. Partners for this Technical Assistance Grant includes ODFW, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and the Baird family.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project area is in coastal Coho spawning and rearing habitat.
- Fish access to stream habitat will be improved for an additional 1.4 miles.
- The landowner is supportive and engaged in the project, which is demonstrated by a well-written letter of support.
- The project has a high likelihood of success and should result in a meaningful restoration project.
- Resulting restoration work should provide a great outreach tool.
- Resulting restoration work will address water quality issues, including temperature, E.coli, and pH.

- The application presents a sense of urgency for this project work, and pictures included in the application provides helpful context for the project review.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by information on the downstream County culvert that is passable but needs improvement work.
- The application was unclear on whether CREP was examined as an option, or if there is a role for either NRCS or the SWCD in the project planning.

Concluding Analysis

This project has a high likelihood of success and will address several watershed limiting factors. The project creates a good opportunity for outreach. The applicant is encouraged to use the CREP program where applicable. Future applications that contain fish passage work would be strengthened by including information on any upstream and downstream barriers. Final fish passage designs must meet both ODFW and NOAA fish passage criteria.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$21,480

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$21,480

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2033-15971

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Baker Creek Culvert Removal
Technical Assistance

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$40,683

Total Cost: \$149,960

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Baker Creek is a tributary to the South Fork Coquille River (SFCR) located near Powers, OR (Coos County). The watershed problem is a fish passage barrier located 626' upstream from the confluence of the SFCR on Baker Creek. Currently, there is a 12' diameter culvert perched 18' above the stream and a deteriorating fishway hindering adult access to 1.2 miles of spawning habitat and preventing juvenile access to 2.0 miles of rearing habitat. The perched culvert is causing habitat fragmentation and impedes natural physical and biological processes in the stream. In 2012, a feasibility study occurred to evaluate the removal of the culvert and the project team decided to move forward with removal in 2013. Following a delay due to a landowner change (Plum Creek Timber Co. bought by Weyerhaeuser Co.), the engineering phase for the restoration project is currently ongoing. Engineering includes: the culvert removal, maintenance of road infrastructure impacted by the removal, gravel export analysis, and design of the channel realignment, grade control structures and habitat. The proposed TA will complete the ongoing engineering phase of the project and result in final designs, construction costs, and permitting. Ultimately, because of this project habitat quantity and quality will be improved for salmon and steelhead and natural stream processes will be restored. Project partners include: BLM, USFWS, ODFW, and Weyerhaeuser.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project area contains high quality Coho spawning and rearing habitat with good water quality and upstream habitat quality.
- The resulting restoration project will improve adult and juvenile passage as well as restore stream function in the project reach. Approximately 2 miles of stream habitat will be made accessible.
- This project builds on stream restoration and water quality work completed in Baker Creek.
- This project builds on previous OWEB investment in a feasibility study and this proposal is the next step.
- Landowner supports the project.
- Partner support is demonstrated by match.
- The design approach is technically sound and the contractor is well qualified.

Concerns

- The resulting project will likely have a high cost, which could limit the potential for this restoration work to move forward.
- There is a considerable amount of material expected to be hauled away as part of the restoration project. The applicant is encouraged to continue coordination with regulatory agencies on this issue.
- The old railroad trestle located at the project site is potentially a cultural resource.

Concluding Analysis

The project builds on an earlier feasibility study. Ensuring fish passage at the site is very important to Coho and other salmonids. The current system of utilizing a Denali fish ladder is not a long-term or best solution for restoring passage. This project will enhance restoration completed instream and in the riparian area of this watershed. Baker Creek provides cool water refugia from the warmer main stem. Due to the potential high cost of the resulting restoration project, the applicant and their partners will need to be very proactive in fundraising. It will be important to develop and tell the story of the cost benefits of this project to help explain the value of this future restoration work.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$40,683

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$40,683

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2034-15981

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: McKee Dam Irrigation and Fish Passage Improvement Study

Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$47,272

Total Cost: \$66,512

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project will develop alternatives and preliminary designs for improving fish passage, irrigation efficiency, and fish screening at McKee Dam (Newberry Dam), an active diversion structure and fish passage barrier at river mile 40.4 on the Applegate River in Jackson County. McKee Dam impedes adult passage to high quality spawning habitat and completely blocks juvenile access to habitat designated as core cold water habitat and high intrinsic potential habitat. The dam suppresses access to 6.1 miles of habitat for Chinook salmon, 20.2 miles of habitat for ESA-listed threatened SONCC Coho salmon, 25.7 miles of habitat for steelhead and fluvial cutthroat trout, and ESA-listed species of concern Pacific lamprey. McKee Dam is listed on the ODFW Statewide Fish Passage Priority list as #50 in the state and #6 in the Rogue River Basin and is on the Rogue Basin Partnership Future Project Priority "Top 10 List" of fish passage projects. Furthermore, the problematic fish screen on Swayne Ditch does not meet current standards and has an appreciable risk of entrainment and mortality for fish. Installation of flashboards during high flows in the spring is a hazard to irrigators. The current conveyance and irrigation system loses an estimated 40% of diverted water and irrigation returns decrease water quality. This proposal will develop alternatives and designs that will restore access to miles of high quality fish habitat and provide adequate fish screening thereby supporting fish population recovery for ESA-listed species. The developed irrigation efficiency designs will improve fish population and watershed health by increasing water quality and leaving water instream. Project partners include Cowhorn Vineyard & Garden, United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Oregon Water Resources Department, Rogue Basin Partnership, Jackson County SWCD, Trout Unlimited, and Middle Rogue Steelheaders.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The resulting restoration project will improve water diversion efficiencies as well as open up 20.2 miles for Coho salmon and 6.1 miles for other native fish species. The project will also reduce smolt mortalities at the site.
- The project area is rated as a #6 priority for barriers by ODFW in the Rogue Basin, and this project continues the momentum in the Rogue to address fish passage.
- The applicant has a proven record of success.
- The project addresses numerous stream function and salmonid access issues.

- This project provides opportunity for needed restoration work on the left side of the stream.

Concerns

- The application includes numerous different objectives. While there are benefits with all of these objectives, it is unclear whether it is feasible to meet them all.
- Not all of the landowners are on board yet.
- It is unclear whether the fish passage issues at the tributary crossings are being addressed.

Concluding Analysis

This project has the potential to address a priority barrier in the Applegate system, and the additional habitat that will be opened up for Coho is significant. There is still considerable work that needs to happen to recruit all of the landowners as well as address technical challenges posed by the barrier and ditch system. The approach the applicant is taking through this technical assistance application is warranted and critical to the development of a viable restoration project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$47,272

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$47,272

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2035-15988

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Million Dollar Mile — Subsurface Hydrologic Mapping on Forest Creek

Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$14,773

Total Cost: \$21,073

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project area, "Million Dollar Mile," is located in Jackson County, Oregon, between river mile 0.31 and 0.50, upstream from its confluence with the Applegate River. There was extensive historic mining using a walking dredge within the lowest reach of Forest Creek, a.k.a. "Million Dollar Mile," during the 1870s and 1880s. This channel disturbance has induced 300 meters of the lower reaches of Forest Creek to go below the surface every spring, well before the rest of the creek dries up in the summer. The dry reach presents a significant barrier to out-migrating juvenile salmonids, including ESA-listed threatened SONCC Coho salmon, SONCC Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and (Klamath Mountain Province) steelhead, and cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), just before reaching the Applegate River. Additionally, due to the hydraulically altered condition of the reach, there is little to no riparian vegetation that is supported along the reach, thereby reducing bank stability and causing elevated stream temperatures. This project will use ground penetrating radar (GPR) to map the extent of the subsurface anthropogenic disturbance and hydrology and assess the potential for a channel reconstruction project to bring the instream flow back during the critical juvenile salmonid out-migration period. Project partners include Bureau of Land Management, the landowner, and Cascade Stream Solutions.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This technical assistance is an innovative and inexpensive approach to assess the cause of the watershed problem.
- The project builds on a previous OWEB investment in an upstream fish passage project.
- This project will address a critical limiting factor on Forest Creek.
- The project focus appropriately targets a stretch of stream near the confluence with the Applegate River that becomes dewatered during summer months, and another stretch of stream that is so damaged that efforts to restore the riparian zone have failed.

Concerns

- The application is unclear on how the proposed technique will determine the location of water, and inform the appropriate depth at which the restoration fix should be implemented.

- It is unclear whether this technique has been used for this type of watershed concern and is technically sound to inform restoration approaches that address the problem. The application would be strengthened by a description of examples of this technique being used successfully.
- There are no letters of support in the application, and there is no landowner involvement in the project.
- It is unclear whether the applicant is looking at a large enough project area to address the major factors causing stream dewatering. The area above the project reach has been heavily impacted by mining as well as water withdrawals and the highway road crossing at the top of the project area may also affect the stream.

Concluding Analysis

Dewatering in the project reach impacts fish and other species during summer months, and the inability of juveniles to move either up or downstream prevent them from accessing cool water refugia. This stretch of stream has been impacted to the point where stream flows disappear, and efforts to restore the riparian area have failed due to harsh conditions. Determining the cause of this and developing strategies to address it is important to the health of the stream. While addressing the problem is important and the proposed approach is innovative, additional information on the technique is needed. Future applications would be strengthened by providing information on how this technique has been used in similar situations and how the information collected was specifically used to design a restoration solution.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2036-16010

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: North Bank Working Landscapes and Habitat Restoration Project

Applicant: Coos SWCD

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$58,333

Total Cost: \$73,162

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Project area is 43.0 acres upstream from Randolph Island (River Mile (RM 7.5)) on the Coquille River, near Bandon, Coos County, OR. The site was historically tidal saltmarsh. Diking and draining of the site for agricultural use was facilitated by installation of culverts with tide-gates and construction of linear drainage channels in the early 1900s. Tidal influence to these channels is currently near zero as the single gate servicing the property is a top-hinged "Flapper" gate that does not allow for tidal inflow. Flooding has occurred on the project area when the Coquille River reaches flood stage. Recently the dike suffered erosion in two locations, allowing saline tides over 7.0ft MLLW into the field. Resultantly, water quality is low, access for fish is very poor, and farming operations have been impossible. The TA funds will provide needed information and design for developing the full restoration proposal for the project area. Restoration project actions include: installation of new culvert and Muted Tidal Regulator (MTR) Tide-gate, improving water quality and maximizing fish access; reconstruction of ~4500 feet of sinuous, on-grade, tidal channel network to provide greatly improved watercourse drainage and hay production; riparian fencing along both sides of reconstructed channel network; re-establishment of native woody vegetation along the banks of tidal channels for direct improvements to water quality over current conditions; installation of large woody debris to increase hiding cover and overall complexity. Final Deliverables of this Technical Design phase: • Hydraulic analysis & engineered design • Approved water management plan • Fish Passage Plan • Adaptive Management/Monitoring Plan • DSL/USACE/SHPO/NMFS/County Planning Permits Project is led by Coos SWCD and ODFW staff. Project partners include Coquille Watershed Association (CWA), and Stalley Family Trust.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The potential for creating habitat for overwintering Coho, as well as other fish and wildlife species, dependent on off-channel areas with salt influence is important in this watershed where the majority of these types of habitats are only a fraction of their historical acreage.
- The landowners are enthusiastic and supportive of the project and want to return the property to a productive working landscape. This is demonstrated by the landowner proactively completing some levy repair work.
- The application addresses previous review comments from a restoration application submission. The complexity of the watershed issues, dikes, tidegates, and drainage system make this an appropriate and needed technical assistance project.

- By hiring an engineer to design the restoration, the project is likely to succeed. The applicant is encouraged to ensure final designs are stamped by the engineer.

Concerns

- Since cultural resources are an issue noted in the application, the applicant will need to ensure appropriate surveys are completed.
- While smaller channels do not need large riparian buffers, riparian set back goals are still needed to measure progress.
- The application contained several design completion percentages.

Concluding Analysis

This technical assistance project is the result of previous review team recommendations on a restoration application. The applicant addressed previous review comments and proposes a technically sound approach for a Technical Assistance project to develop designs. The resulting restoration will have a high likelihood of resulting in a project with important ecological benefits as well as providing the landowner tools for productively managing the property.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$58,333

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$58,333

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2037-16023

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Glover Tidegate Replacement and Channel Re-meander TA

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$55,743

Total Cost: \$83,506

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Umpqua River Estuary, near the communities of Gardiner and Reedsport in Douglas County, provides critical feeding and refuge habitat for salmon, steelhead, eulachon and Pacific lamprey. Unfortunately, many of the estuarine wetlands in the Umpqua have been filled, cleared, diked and drained for agriculture or urban development and are limiting wetland inundation and fish passage. The Glover Family Ranch is one such place where 135 acres of tidal wetlands were converted to pastures by building levees, re-configuring stream channels to ditches and installing tidegates to control the incoming tide. A group of partners including Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR), Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District (USWCD), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Glover Family have been working together to create a restoration plan for the property. Plans for fish passage, water management to provide fish habitat, livestock management and fencing of the channels, native vegetation planting and restoration monitoring are being drafted by the group. To continue the development of the project and provide details needed for final project design, OWEB funds are needed to 1) obtain structural and geotechnical engineering reports for the tidegate structures, 2) complete final channel design including drainage details for the mosquito management plan, 3) finalize tidegate designs after structural and geotechnical reviews are received, 4) solicit bids for work to create accurate project budget estimates and 5) prepare and submit OWEB restoration grant to fund project work.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located in a working landscape with potential to provide a large area, potentially up to 130 acres, of over wintering habitat for juvenile Coho. The project also has potential to be a win-win with significant ecological benefits as well as enhancing the landowner's ability to manage the property for livestock production.
- The landowner is actively involved and supportive of the project.
- The application addresses previous review comments from a restoration application submission. The complexity of issues on the project sites and the necessity for designs to address them warrants a technical assistance project to ensure a successful on-the-ground project.

Concerns

- The budget has lump sums. The application would benefit from more breakout detail of costs.
- The applicant is encouraged to investigate approaching the County as a collaborating partner in the project.

Concluding Analysis

The technical assistance project is the result of recommendations by the RRT on a previous restoration application. The applicant addressed previous review comments and proposes a technically sound project to develop and design the restoration project. The resulting restoration will have a high likelihood of resulting in a project with significant ecological benefits as well as providing the landowner tools for productively managing the property.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$55,743

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$55,743

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2038-16027

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: South Fork Coos River Road
Inventory and Sediment Reduction

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$65,166

Total Cost: \$86,617

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The South Fork Coos River and its tributaries support numerous species of anadromous salmonids and resident fish. These tributaries are very important for refuge from high winter stream flows and unfavorable summer water temperatures. Surrounding these streams are a network of both private and federal forest roads. Fine sediment from these roads can have significant effects on aquatic habitat and water quality. This grant will fund a road inventory to evaluate approximately 240 miles of roads that drain directly to the South Fork Coos River and its tributaries. The project will provide 3 types of data: (1) estimated road sediment yield and hydrological connectivity; (2) identify needs, prioritization, and layouts for road improvements, or decommissions; (3) a road features GIS database to be used for long term asset management. Project partners will be Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, and Weyerhaeuser. OWEB funds will be used to conduct surveys, data analysis, project management, training, travel, equipment and supplies.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project covers a large number of miles, including many with high value habitat for Coho and other native species. While the overall project cost seems high, the cost per mile is reasonable.
- This project is supported by partners; and the landowners provide a great example of very well managed logging roads.
- Proposed restoration leverages other project work.
- The applicant has a system to identify sediment factors using an established methodology, which the applicant has successfully utilized in other watershed areas.
- There is a high likelihood for a restoration project to result from this technical assistance work.

Concerns

- The application did not address habitat potential or capacity; and would be strengthened by detail on the roads that are likely to be in areas of most importance to fish species. This information would be helpful for understanding the project scope and specific impact areas.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant and partners have developed a strong working relationship and track record on this type of project. Previous efforts have resulted in multiple restoration projects that address road issues in streams important to Coho and other native fish species. The applicant is encouraged to consider providing training on the methodology to Weyerhaeuser road staff so it could be incorporated into regular work activities and future planning.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$65,166

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2039-16047

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: South Coast Lidar 2018

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Curry

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$218,650

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Curry SWCD is partnering with the Oregon Lidar Consortium, DOGAMI and other local partners to acquire high quality lidar derived remote sensing products. The area of interest (AOI) is generally the areas of Curry County that do not currently have complete or adequate lidar coverage. Specifically for this project, the area was prioritized by watershed based on recent priorities and the needs of local partners which includes the Coquille Indian Tribe and the City of Brookings. The Sixes River, Elk River and Chetco River watersheds are the focus of this project (see attached map). The recent Chetco Bar Fire burned 245 of the 352 sq. mi. that make up the Chetco River watershed. Curry County covers over 1,600 square miles of land that is characterized as topographically steep and geologically complex. Large landscape-scale landslides underlie major portions of the county's watersheds. Historic and current land use activities can magnify the complexities of the terrain by creating roads and infrastructure that are difficult to maintain and can lead to chronic fine sediment inputs when not designed and sited properly. The Curry SWCD along with numerous partners has worked over the years to address issues such as fish passage, sediment abatement, bank stabilization and WQ concerns. Some portion of almost all of the watersheds in Curry County are 303d listed for temperature concerns while many are listed as category 3 for other parameters such as sedimentation, which indicates that there is concern but insufficient data to determine whether a standard is being met (Table 1). Existing lidar coverage along a several mile wide strip along the coast has been invaluable to our work as it reduces field mapping time, provides controlled elevation data for preliminary engineering and design of projects, and provides a more accurate representation of hydrological features. We are proposing to acquire lidar to fill the gaps and have high resolution data for whole watersheds.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Lidar can be an important tool for project design.
- The proposed work will fit into other previous Lidar efforts.

Concerns

- The overall project cost is high and the application does not clearly explain deliverables for the cost.
- It is not clear whether this work is redundant to DOGAMI work.

- The application did not specify whether the land to be covered by LiDAR is public or private.
- LiDAR needs a ground-truthing component and it is not clear whether this project includes this ground-truthing.
- A considerable portion of match is pending and it is not clear whether this will impact the project schedule or implementation.
- It is unclear whether the higher Lidar resolution is needed for effective project development.

Concluding Analysis

LiDAR can be a helpful tool for identifying and designing restoration projects. The application left many unanswered questions that need clarification to provide a better understanding and effective evaluation of the technical soundness of the proposed project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2040-16063

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Floras Creek Sediment Abatement
Road Inventory

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Curry

OWEB Request: \$26,697

Total Cost: \$44,197

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Floras Creek is a 52,000 acre coastal watershed that is located in the northern Siskiyou Mountains of Curry County, near the town of Langlois, Oregon. Approximately 92% of the watershed is privately owned and actively managed for timber, livestock, and aggregate. Sediment loading from roads, gullies, and quarries impairs water quality and inundates the lower Mainstem with bedload; to the detriment of the native salmonid populations, Langlois' municipal water source, and bottomland agricultural operations. Through this TA proposal we will inventory sediment sources on 40.2 miles of non-industrial, forestry-grazing roads located on 6 ownerships (4950 acres) in the Middle Mainstem and South Fork subwatersheds; and 7.13 miles of BLM road that are interspersed within the private road networks. Road inventory data will be collected using an established protocol that catalogues road drainage, stream crossings, and unstable road fills; and prioritizes sediment abatement based on the magnitude and likelihood of delivery. Sediment abatement plans will be developed that summarize the inventory data, prescribe treatments for high and medium priority sites, and provide design specifications and cost estimates for implementation. BLM staff and private landowners will assist with the inventory; ODA and the Drinking Water Providers Partnership will provide matching funds.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Private lands located lower in the watershed are a priority for water quality projects.
- This project builds on several CREP projects in the area as well as several restoration projects.
- The project work addresses TMDL water quality concerns by targeting sediment sources; which has a big impact on salmonids utilizing the system.

Concerns

- The proposed protocol may be outdated and may not provide useful data for understanding the magnitude of watershed issues.
- The application has some discrepancies in the number of roads to be inventoried.
- The use of Lidar maps in the application is confusing.
- Since all project match is identified as pending, it is unclear when the project will be implementation ready.

- The application would benefit from inclusion of letters of support.

Concluding Analysis

Addressing sediment sources in this watershed is an important priority. The applicant has a successful track record of developing and implementing restoration projects in this watershed. Surveys can be powerful tools for targeting and developing restoration approaches that address problem areas. The application would benefit from more detail on the proposed technical approach with clear deliverables that lead to a focused restoration project. The proposal needs to be further developed and vetted to ensure that the work proposed can result in data and information needed to develop meaningful, targeted restoration work.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2041-15938

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Eel Creek Pacific Lamprey Passage
Effectiveness Monitoring

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$56,666

Total Cost: \$85,521

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Eel Lake and Eel Creek are located in Coos and Douglas Counties just south of Reedsport Oregon. Eel Lake is a natural lake formed by dunal sand encroachment. Historically this basin and streams supported robust runs of native fish including Coho Salmon and Pacific lamprey. In 1989, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife constructed a fish weir on Eel Creek at the outflow of Eel Lake. While the current design works well for Coho Salmon, it is not conducive to Pacific Lamprey passage. As a result, there has been no documented Pacific Lamprey presence in Eel Lake or tributaries since before 1990. In addition, two ODOT HWY 101 culverts on Eel and Clear Creeks were recently identified as lamprey barriers. The Eel Creek culvert lamprey passage enhancement was constructed during August, 2017, while the Clear Creek culvert is scheduled to be upgraded in summer of 2018. The Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI), ODFW, and TLBP are scheduled to install a new lamprey passage (A ramp that will pass adult Pacific Lamprey) at the Eel Lake Trap in 2018. This situation creates a unique opportunity to conduct effectiveness monitoring of these new designs for Pacific Lamprey passage. ODFW, CTCLUSI, and TLBP, in cooperation with ODOT, propose to conduct effectiveness monitoring on the Eel Lake Trap Lamprey Passage and Eel Creek Hwy 101 culvert designs. We also propose to conduct pre-implementation monitoring on the planned ODOT Clear Cr. culvert project. Using approved techniques, we will monitor the movements, holding habitats, barrier issues, and habitat use of Pacific Lamprey within the Eel Lake Basin. Implementation of this Monitoring project will provide the state and local partners with valuable data for Oregon Pacific Lamprey. Funding this priority monitoring effort will complete several actions recommended in the draft Tenmile Lakes 30 Year Pacific Lamprey Conservation Plan as well as supplement the creation of the Oregon Lamprey Recovery Plan (OLRP). Eel Lake and Eel Creek are located in Coos and Douglas Counties just south of Reedsport Oregon. Eel Lake is a natural lake formed by dunal sand encroachment. Historically this basin and streams supported robust runs of native fish including Coho Salmon and Pacific lamprey. In 1989, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife constructed a fish weir on Eel Creek at the outflow of Eel Lake. While the current design works well for Coho Salmon, it is not conducive to Pacific Lamprey passage. As a result, there has been no documented Pacific Lamprey presence in Eel Lake or tributaries since before 1990. In addition, two ODOT HWY 101 culverts on Eel and Clear Creeks were recently identified as lamprey barriers. The Eel Creek culvert lamprey passage enhancement was constructed during August, 2017, while the Clear Creek culvert is scheduled to be upgraded in summer of 2018. The Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI), ODFW, and TLBP are scheduled to install a new lamprey passage (A ramp that will

pass adult Pacific Lamprey) at the Eel Lake Trap in 2018. This situation creates a unique opportunity to conduct effectiveness monitoring of these new designs for Pacific Lamprey passage. ODFW, CTCLUSI, and TLBP, in cooperation with ODOT, propose to conduct effectiveness monitoring on the Eel Lake Trap Lamprey Passage and Eel Creek Hwy 101 culvert designs. We also propose to conduct pre-implementation monitoring on the planned ODOT Clear Cr. culvert project. Using approved techniques, we will monitor the movements, holding habitats, barrier issues, and habitat use of Pacific Lamprey within the Eel Lake Basin. Implementation of this Monitoring project will provide the state and local partners with valuable data for Oregon Pacific Lamprey. Funding this priority monitoring effort will complete several actions recommended in the draft Tenmile Lakes 30 Year Pacific Lamprey Conservation Plan as well as supplement the creation of the Oregon Lamprey Recovery Plan (OLRP).

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The focus on lamprey is needed to understand the life history of Pacific Lamprey in the local area, and provide a baseline to determine if it is possible to correct passage through culverts or similar structures.
- This will help determine if structure alteration to achieve lamprey passage is successful.
- This application has extensive support from the local lamprey advisory group, and the statewide lamprey coordinator has committed to assist with sampling design and implementation of the project, if funded.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application describes that photo-points are being established before and after the culvert replacement. It was unclear how this information would help in interpreting the data they are proposing to collect.
- The application was not clear on how they are going to analyze the data they propose to collect.
- The timeline is confusing and not well organized. However, this may have been a technical issue with the OWEB Online Apps system.

Monitoring Team Comments

NONE

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High

Certainty of Success

High

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project has expanded the partnership between the applicant, the tribes, and other entities.
- The applicant has a long history of implementing monitoring activities, especially water quality monitoring.
- Gaining a better understanding of lamprey life history and their use of the lake system is an important piece of the puzzle for planning future lamprey habitat restoration.
- This monitoring could lead to improvements in restoration designs related to passage and habitat needs for Pacific Lamprey.

Concerns

- The application does not address whether there is consideration of the potential for non-native fish presence in the system.
- The project addresses the physical habitat, such as passage concerns, but not necessarily the biological aspects of lamprey use in the system, such as population distribution.

Concluding Analysis

The project builds on a smaller project designed to look at lamprey use in the system. The applicant has expanded on this work and built a partnership committed to better understanding lamprey in the watershed. The project work is important and will inform future restoration actions, especially those related to lamprey passage to habitat. Future applications can be strengthened by adding activities that look at lamprey distribution and other limiting factors impacting lamprey usage in the system as well as being more descriptive on data analysis.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$56,666

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$56,666

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2042-15946

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Winter Lake Restoration
Effectiveness Monitoring

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$282,596

Total Cost: \$365,073

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Winter Lake Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring Project will evaluate the Winter Lake Restoration Project. Location: floodplain off the mainstem Coquille River (river mile 20/Coquille, OR/Coos County). Originally a freshwater tidal, forested marsh, it was cleared, bermed, and drained for agriculture (seasonal pasture grazing). China Camp Creek was channelized and tide gate infrastructure was installed, reducing habitat diversity and floodplain connectivity and altering thermal regimes. The restoration project addresses these watershed issues by restoring the 407-acre Winter Lake area owned by ODFW and the China Creek Gun Club, and improving the river floodplain connectivity in the remaining 1,300 acres of privately owned pastures. This project is a highly visible, substantial restoration investment and provides significant uplift to a large tract of juvenile coho rearing habitat. Therefore, comprehensive monitoring is essential to document results, inform adaptive management, and disseminate lessons learned. Starting in 2018, the monitoring project will collect data on the changes observed due to the restoration and at a reference location for four years post-implementation. Parameters include: fish passage (channel depth and connectivity, tide gate velocity), fish habitat quality and quantity (channel complexity, water quality (temperature, DO, TN, TP, TSS), water level, vegetation), and fish response to habitat enhancement (relative abundance and condition factor). The monitoring project goals include determining if the restoration project is accomplishing the restoration objectives, informing adaptive management needs on the project site, and informing restoration efforts along the Oregon Coast. Project partners: ODFW, Nature Conservancy, Beaver Slough Drainage District, ODEQ, and Coquille Indian Tribe. The Winter Lake Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring Project will evaluate the Winter Lake Restoration Project. Location: floodplain off the mainstem Coquille River (river mile 20/Coquille, OR/Coos County). Originally a freshwater tidal, forested marsh, it was cleared, bermed, and drained for agriculture (seasonal pasture grazing). China Camp Creek was channelized and tide gate infrastructure was installed, reducing habitat diversity and floodplain connectivity and altering thermal regimes. The restoration project addresses these watershed issues by restoring the 407-acre Winter Lake area owned by ODFW and the China Creek Gun Club, and improving the river floodplain connectivity in the remaining 1,300 acres of privately owned pastures. This project is a highly visible, substantial restoration investment and provides significant uplift to a large tract of juvenile coho rearing habitat. Therefore, comprehensive monitoring is essential to document results, inform adaptive management, and disseminate lessons learned. Starting in 2018, the monitoring project will collect data on the changes observed due to the restoration and at a reference location for four years post-

implementation. Parameters include: fish passage (channel depth and connectivity, tide gate velocity), fish habitat quality and quantity (channel complexity, water quality (temperature, DO, TN, TP, TSS), water level, vegetation), and fish response to habitat enhancement (relative abundance and condition factor). The monitoring project goals include determining if the restoration project is accomplishing the restoration objectives, informing adaptive management needs on the project site, and informing restoration efforts along the Oregon Coast. Project partners: ODFW, Nature Conservancy, Beaver Slough Drainage District, ODEQ, and Coquille Indian Tribe.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This proposal will build off of the existing fish data that were collected before the tide gates were replaced to determine if fish passage and habitat has improved.
- The applicant worked with local experts that represent several interested stakeholders to develop the sampling design and will help with the implementation of the project, if funded.
- The collection of continuous dissolved oxygen (DO) and temperature data will be valuable to understand what the water quality conditions are during typically stressful periods of time.
- This information is important to collect given the significant investment in replacing the tide gates and habitat improvement actions.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The OPMT questioned the need for total suspended solids (TSS) and nutrient sampling and did not feel that this is the highest priority data to be collected, given the various monitoring that was proposed and the restoration project's main objectives (fish passage and habitat improvement).
- The OPMT questioned the frequency of visits for the continuous DO loggers and encourage that they are maintained at a monthly interval at a minimum to ensure high-quality data are collected.
- The track record of the applicant, when considering a monitoring project of this magnitude, is unknown. The OPMT was concerned that the management, analysis and reporting of the data will be a huge commitment, given the various data collection efforts and organizations involved over the time period proposed in the application.
- The application lacks details on the methods to follow to calibrate, deploy and maintain the DO loggers.

Monitoring Team Comments

- Remove the TSS and the nutrient monitoring component of the application.
- Monitor DO following DEQ's protocol that was recently developed.

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High

Certainty of Success

Medium

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on past monitoring and restoration activities.
- The project has a DEQ approved quality assurance plan; however it needs to be updated.
- The monitoring plan will provide data that can be used when developing future tidegate projects, tidally influenced riparian restoration, and channel re-construction projects. The resulting data needs to be shared with state agencies for inclusion into their databases, including ODFW and ODEQ.
- The monitoring has potential to be used for outreach by providing information to landowners on the benefits that can be realized from tidegate projects.
- This monitoring will inform adaptive management of the restoration project.

Concerns

- Loggers to be used need frequent visits to ensure debris build up on these devices does not interfere with their sensitivity, weekly visits are recommended.

Concluding Analysis

The China Camp Creek Tidegate Replacement and the upcoming Winter Lake Restoration project are both important projects with a critical need for monitoring their results to inform future tidegate replacement projects as well as those involving channel reconstruction and riparian restoration. Both of these restoration projects represent a large investment and commitment by a multitude of partners, and capturing the impacts of this work on fish use, fish access, habitat improvements, water quality, and land usage is vital. The development of this monitoring involved the right array of partners and implementation has the same degree of involvement so there is a high likelihood of success. It will be important to capture and share the data and results of this work. The work will also be important to informing adaptive management of the restoration projects. Future projects of this scale and a number of partnerships will benefit from the development of a monitoring plan and funding strategy at the design phase.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$282,596

Review Team Conditions

Increase frequency of visits to clean Sondes/DO loggers. Update DEQ QA/QC. Data must be shared with state agencies for inclusion into their databases (including ODFW and ODEQ).

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$282,596

Staff Conditions

Increase frequency of visits to clean Sondes/DO loggers. Update DEQ QA/QC. Data must be shared with state agencies for inclusion into their databases (including ODFW and ODEQ).

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2043-15979

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Using Bird Monitoring to Evaluate Effectiveness of Riparian Restoration in the Rogue Basin

Applicant: Klamath Bird Observatory

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$26,926

Total Cost: \$37,726

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Healthy riparian vegetation provides important ecological services, including critical habitat for a disproportionate number of birds and other terrestrial wildlife, yet a large portion of riparian habitats in the Rogue River Basin have been lost or degraded. Riparian restoration implemented in Jackson and Josephine counties of southwestern Oregon meets rigorous vegetation performance standards, but it is not known whether other important ecological goals are being met: improving riparian areas for wildlife habitat as well as watershed health. Birds are widely recognized as excellent ecological and management indicators, and are relatively easy and cost-effective to monitor. Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) proposes a pilot project partnering with The Freshwater Trust (TFT) that uses avian monitoring data and a focal species approach to evaluate effectiveness of and improve riparian restoration in the Rogue Basin. KBO will adapt existing standardized bird monitoring techniques (e.g. territory mapping, reproductive index, activity budgets), pilot their use for smaller-scale sites restored by TFT, and determine the feasibility of achieving ecologically meaningful results that can be applied to adaptive management. This exciting collaboration will link a science-based conservation organization with an on-the-ground restoration practitioner, create a model of better communication between scientists and land managers that will benefit the Rogue Basin watershed, and advance efforts to quantify benefits of restoration and inform future project design. This pilot project provides a timely opportunity to evaluate avian monitoring data as useful metrics of habitat quality, ecosystem function, and restoration success, as the Rogue Basin Partnership is currently developing a comprehensive basin-wide monitoring strategy. Healthy riparian vegetation provides important ecological services, including critical habitat for a disproportionate number of birds and other terrestrial wildlife, yet a large portion of riparian habitats in the Rogue River Basin have been lost or degraded. Riparian restoration implemented in Jackson and Josephine counties of southwestern Oregon meets rigorous vegetation performance standards, but it is not known whether other important ecological goals are being met: improving riparian areas for wildlife habitat as well as watershed health. Birds are widely recognized as excellent ecological and management indicators, and are relatively easy and cost-effective to monitor. Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) proposes a pilot project partnering with The Freshwater Trust (TFT) that uses avian monitoring data and a focal species approach to evaluate effectiveness of and improve riparian restoration in the Rogue Basin. KBO will adapt existing standardized bird monitoring techniques (e.g. territory mapping, reproductive index, activity budgets), pilot their use for smaller-scale sites restored by TFT, and

determine the feasibility of achieving ecologically meaningful results that can be applied to adaptive management. This exciting collaboration will link a science-based conservation organization with an on-the-ground restoration practitioner, create a model of better communication between scientists and land managers that will benefit the Rogue Basin watershed, and advance efforts to quantify benefits of restoration and inform future project design. This pilot project provides a timely opportunity to evaluate avian monitoring data as useful metrics of habitat quality, ecosystem function, and restoration success, as the Rogue Basin Partnership is currently developing a comprehensive basin-wide monitoring strategy.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- There is value in understanding if riparian plantings designed for water temperature improvements are providing additional ecological outcomes, such as habitat for birds.
- This application proposes to develop a methodology and approach that could be exportable for monitoring smaller riparian planting projects.
- This proposal is a good partnership with The Freshwater Trust to utilize an existing vegetation data set and correlate that to the avian data set.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application was not clear if the first objective (i.e., literature search) has been completed, or if it will be completed prior to the monitoring outlined in the timeline.
- The OPMT questioned the usefulness of the data based on presence of birds or nests. There was discussion related to bird presence equating the presence of high-quality bird habitat.
- The original plantings were not designed with avian-specific objectives in mind. Using bird data to develop adaptive management for riparian plantings, when the primary intent of the plantings is to address water-quality issues, may be misaligned with the original restoration objectives.

Monitoring Team Comments

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High-15%, Medium-70%, Low-15%

Certainty of Success

High-29%, Medium-42%, Low-29%

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant has experience with bird monitoring.

- The process for implementing this project is straight forward because the applicant will be working with one entity that already has established relationships with landowners.
- The project is based on work undertaken in the Klamath, and protocols will be adapted from that work.
- This monitoring is identified in the Rogue Basin Restoration Plan.
- The project will build on monitoring that The Freshwater Trust is implementing in areas that have been planted; and looks at species diversity, survival, and invasive species.

Concerns

- The restoration projects to be monitored were designed for the primary objective of improving water quality (i.e. temperature) and not for increasing native bird populations. While restoring native riparian plant species should benefit birds, monitoring for a bird response at a project not specifically designed for that objective may not be an appropriate comparison.
- The application was not clear on how the work would be extrapolated to different age classes of vegetation.
- The application would benefit from additional discussion on the applicant's first objective: "evaluate the application of standardized avian monitoring methods to small-scale restoration (sites (e.g. 2-6 acres) and determine the feasibility of achieving statistically rigorous and/or ecologically meaningful results that can be applied to adaptive management;" and the possible ramifications to project implementation resulting from different findings.

Concluding Analysis

The use of bird population response to riparian restoration would add another facet to evaluating the effectiveness of riparian restoration. This type of monitoring is currently not utilized in the area and will need some adaption from other work the applicant is involved in. It was not clear from the application whether the current age trees and vegetation in the riparian restoration projects would lend itself well to some of the monitoring parameters. However, this type of approach may make for a viable alternative to other current monitoring approaches for riparian vegetation that focus mainly on plant survival rates.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$26,926

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2044-16041

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Coho Life History and Migrations in
Tide Gated Lowland Coastal Streams 2018-2020

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$229,549

Total Cost: \$355,907

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project renews and refines long-term monitoring, initiated in 2004, which examines coho salmon abundance, survival, life histories and habitat use in Palouse and Willanch Creek, two tide gated coastal lowland streams in the Coos Bay estuary. Tidal ecotone habitats are critical for the resiliency and recovery of Coos River and Oregon Coastal coho but largely remain the most altered landscapes across the fishes range. These conditions limit connectivity to off-channel winter refuge habitat and create barriers to movement between habitats, especially for juvenile salmon. This project enhances PIT tag mark-recapture-resight techniques and expands Rotary Screw Trap sampling methods to more effectively monitor coho life cycles, evaluate seasonal tidal habitat use and assess fish passage effectiveness at an upgraded tide gate. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State University, United States Forest Service, University of Oregon, UCAN-AmeriCorps, South Western Community College, local high schools, volunteers and riparian landowners partner with Coos Watershed Association management to provide property access, equipment, technical assistance, and survey effort to implement the proposed objectives. OWEB funds will be used to support technical and management personnel and provide necessary materials and equipment. This project renews and refines long-term monitoring, initiated in 2004, which examines coho salmon abundance, survival, life histories and habitat use in Palouse and Willanch Creek, two tide gated coastal lowland streams in the Coos Bay estuary. Tidal ecotone habitats are critical for the resiliency and recovery of Coos River and Oregon Coastal coho but largely remain the most altered landscapes across the fishes range. These conditions limit connectivity to off-channel winter refuge habitat and create barriers to movement between habitats, especially for juvenile salmon. This project enhances PIT tag mark-recapture-resight techniques and expands Rotary Screw Trap sampling methods to more effectively monitor coho life cycles, evaluate seasonal tidal habitat use and assess fish passage effectiveness at an upgraded tide gate. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State University, United States Forest Service, University of Oregon, UCAN-AmeriCorps, South Western Community College, local high schools, volunteers and riparian landowners partner with Coos Watershed Association management to provide property access, equipment, technical assistance, and survey effort to implement the proposed objectives. OWEB funds will be used to support technical and management personnel and provide necessary materials and equipment.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This application builds on a large dataset and will help put adult salmon returns in context.
- The applicant is one of the few organizations currently tracking fish response in tide-gated systems over a long period of time.
- The applicant has a good track record and is working with ODFW to leverage the life cycle monitoring site.
- The application proposes to calculate appropriate metrics for survivability and productivity.
- The OPMT liked that the application discussed lessons learned and why they are doing this type of monitoring.
- There have been changes in the tide gate operation and this would inform what is expected when tide gates are operated differently to improve fish passage.
- The applicant does an outstanding job of using the information in identifying areas of restoration, project design, outreach and generating annual reports.
- The results are transferrable to other tide gated streams on the Oregon Coast.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- No concerns were identified.

Monitoring Team Comments

NONE

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High

Certainty of Success

High

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This is a well written application.
- The application demonstrates strong partnerships, and the applicant's abilities to implement this type of challenging monitoring effort.
- This monitoring project provides a long-term dataset that is shared. .
- Monitoring data derived from this project is used for informing restoration efforts, tidegate replacement projects, and restoration project design; and provides needed information on Coho life cycle in estuary draining tidegated streams.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

This project is the most recent request from a long term successful monitoring effort designed to better understand the life cycle of juvenile Coho in stream systems that drain directly into an estuary impacted by tidegates. Previous project work has informed tidegate replacements as well as greatly enhancing the understanding of how juvenile Coho use these systems. These long –term monitoring datasets are well distributed, shared, and utilized. The applicant effectively uses the information to identify priority areas for restoration, design projects, implement outreach, and generate annual reports. The project application reflects a strong program built to accomplish this important monitoring work.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$229,549

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$229,549

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2045-15954

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Oregon Woodland Owner Engagement Project

Applicant: American Forest Foundation

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$74,782

Total Cost: \$94,782

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Healthy forests play a critical role in providing clean water. Yet, unnaturally large and severe fire threatens water supply to communities, agriculture, and wildlife. Restoration of forests' fire resiliency on non-industrial private forest (NIPF) lands is critical to addressing this cross jurisdictional challenge. Unfortunately, a majority of NIPF landowners are not actively managing their land. Through spatial assessments we have identified targeted sub watersheds across eight sub basins in Oregon where action on NIPF lands is essential to safeguarding water quality and watershed function. In three focal areas that encompass those watersheds, AFF will work with partners to engage landowners who have largely previously not actively managed their lands. We will utilize both direct mail and social media marketing to offer over 5,000 landowners a continuum of services as a way to get them engaged. For landowners ready to act, we will provide direct technical assistance that would qualify the landowner for subsequent financial assistance for management projects. And for landowners not ready to act, we will produce a range of activities, including workshops, field days, and peer learning opportunities that are designed to guide the landowner to eventual action. In both cases, our aim is to build a pipeline of landowners in targeted and critical watersheds who have the willingness and ability to reduce their fire risk. This proposal seeks funding to support that outreach and our work with partners across the three focal areas, including USFS, NRCS, ODF, OSU extension, OFRI, OSWA, Wallowa Resources, and the Klamath Lake Forest Health partnership.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- From Region 5 RRT:
Application strengths identified during review include:
 - The goal to reach 5,000 landowners across the state is ambitious.
 - The project involves partners.

From Region 4 RRT:
Application strengths identified during review include:

- This effort proposed for the Chiloquin area will support on-going efforts already underway by local partners.
- The project will support "boots on-the-ground" efforts to engage landowners in technical planning and potential future restoration.

- The proposal is using lessons learned and a successful model completed in the Blue Mountains of Oregon as a basis for their approach and technique.

From Region 2 RRT:

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The proposed project is a unique, holistic approach for restoring forest lands with hydrologic form and function.
- This work is important for NRCS priorities.
- There currently are several Forest Collaboratives at work in the Region.
- The application includes letters of support.

Concerns

- From Region 5 RRT:
- NRCS has a CIS in the same area and this project may impact their work, however NRCS in Region 6 has not heard of this proposal.
- There are already other small forestry groups doing similar work across the state.
- It is unclear how the interface with local stakeholders will be managed.
- It is unclear how the proposed project is strategic.

From Region 4 RRT:

- Local, state, and federal partners in the Chiloquin area already working on these efforts were not aware of this grant proposal nor contacted by the applicant. There are existing tools in place by local partners that could benefit the applicant's efforts.
- It was unclear whether the databased mentioned (FLoWs) was necessary in the Chiloquin area.
- It would have been helpful to understand how many technical plans and plans put into action the outreach in the Blue Mountains resulted in.

From Region 2 RRT:

- This work is already occurring and it is unclear whether the applicant is working collaboratively with local partners to avoid redundancy and mixed messages.
- The objectives and deliverables lack specific details.
- The application would benefit from additional specifics on how to accomplish fish and wildlife habitat protection.
- It is not clear how the use of staff from outside Oregon will impact landowner receptiveness and whether project costs would be lowered if staff from within Oregon were utilized.
- Several approaches are identified to reach landowners; however, it is unclear whether the social media component can effectively reach target landowners. Since there is considerable cost associated with this component, the application would be strengthened by additional detail on this approach as well as discussion on its effectiveness in reaching landowners.

Concluding Analysis

The project proposes implementation of strategies to engage landowners in forest health issues. This is important work, however the application needs additional specific detail on project objectives and

approaches and their likelihood to succeed in recruiting landowners in active restoration. Additionally, discussion on how the project will integrate and collaborate with existing efforts would be helpful for evaluating the project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

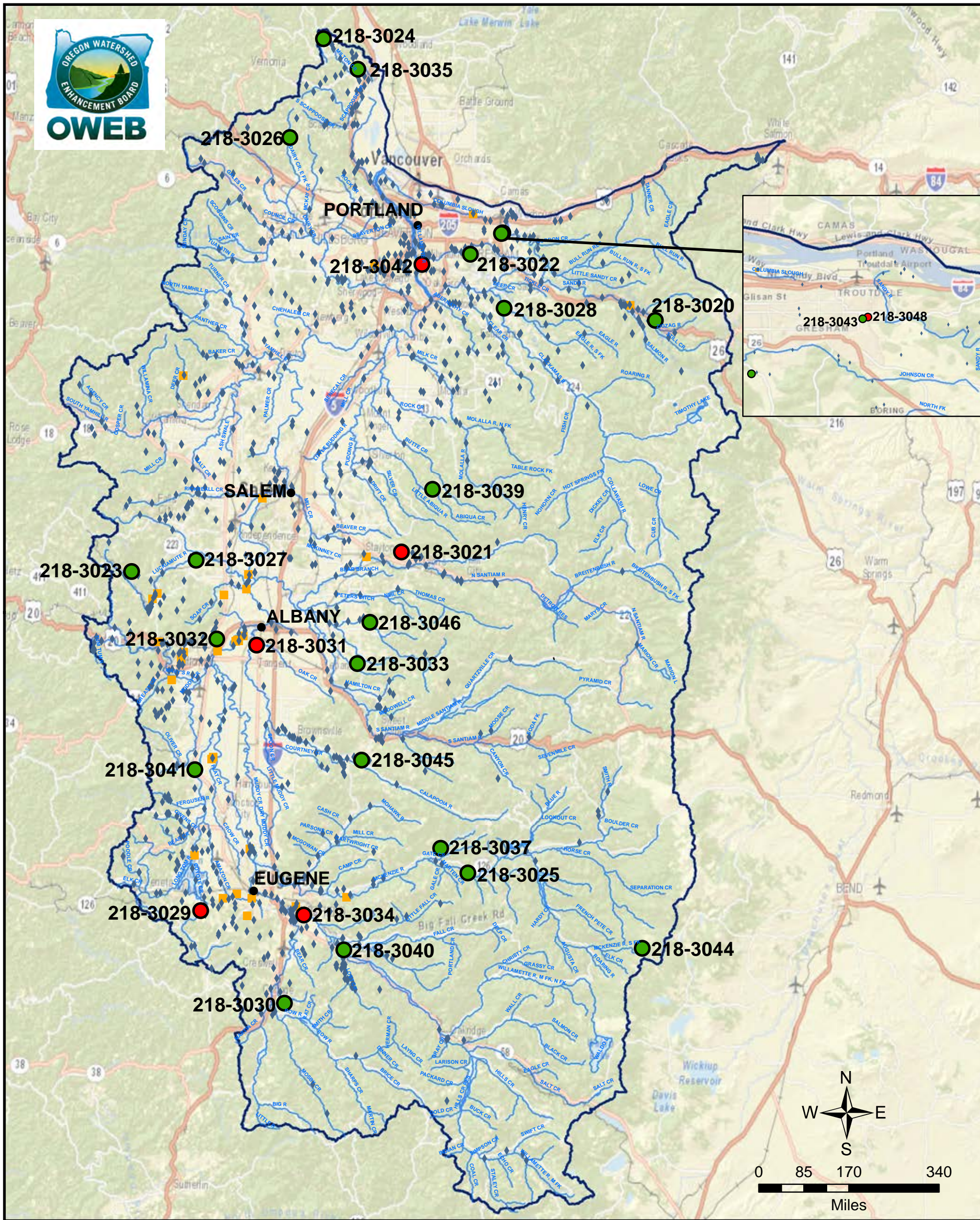
Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Willamette Basin - Region 3 Fall 2017 Funding Recommendations



Document Path: Z:\oweb\Technical_Services\Information_Services\GIS\Maps\Review Team Meetings\2017\Fall\Cycle\Projects\Region3_AppFundingStatus_11x17_2017Fall.mxd
 ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB-PK Wills Fall 20180326

Fall 2017 Applications

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants - 1998-Spring 2017

- ◆ Restoration
- ◆ Acquisitions

~ Streams

 Region 1 Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

775 Summer St, NE Suite 360
 Salem, OR 97301-1290
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<http://oregon.gov/OWEB/>

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Region 3 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Region 3 - Willamette Basin | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---------------------------|---------------|
| Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-3024 | Scappoose Bay Watershed Council | Upper Milton Creek Large Wood | Proposed restoration will restore fish habitat on 2.5 miles of Upper Milton Creek, a tributary to Scappoose Bay. This project will install instream large wood structures and plant native conifer trees along the stream to create a significant increase in native fish refuge areas, and future large wood recruitment for the stream. This 2.5 miles combined with a previous 3.5 miles of restoration work will result in a total of 6 miles of restored stream habitat benefiting native salmon and steelhead. | 218,798 | Columbia |
| 218-3033 | South Santiam Watershed Council | Dragonfly Ranch Meadow, Wetland, Oak Savanna and Oak Woodland Restoration Project | Proposed restoration located on One Horse Slough, a tributary of the South Santiam River, will restore and enhance mixed woodland, oak savanna, riparian forest, meadows, springs, seasonal and permanent streams, and several perennial ponds. These habitats will benefit a diversity of native Oregon fish and wildlife species, including western pond turtles, beaver, and red-legged frogs. | 159,904 | Linn |
| 218-3027 | Polk SWCD | Jont Creek Barrier Removal and Off Channel Habitat Improvement | Proposed restoration will replace a culvert that is a fish passage barrier on Jont Creek, a tributary to the Luckiamute River. Removing this barrier will open fish access to over 9 miles of stream habitat and provide opportunity to improve over 45 acres of wetland habitat surrounding the existing culvert. | 98,879 | Polk |
| 218-3030 | Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council | Carnine Upland Prairie and Oak Savanna Restoration | Proposed restoration will occur on a 326-acre property located on the southeastern edge of the City of Cottage Grove in the lower Row River watershed. Restoring this rare but degraded Willamette Valley oak savanna and prairie habitats will benefit priority plant and wildlife species dependent on these habitats. | 159,740 | Lane |
| 218-3028 | Clackamas River Basin Council | Bonnie Lure State Recreation Area | Proposed restoration is in the Bonnie Lure State Recreation Area, an Oregon State Park located at the confluence of Eagle Creek with the Clackamas River. Eradicating invasive species and re-establishing native plant communities, including mixed riparian forest, shrub scrub wetland, and conifer-dominated foothills, will return this priority location to baseline functioning conditions. | 133,990 | Clackamas |
| 218-3025 | McKenzie Watershed Alliance | Lower Deer Creek Enhancement Project | Proposed restoration is located on Deer Creek in the McKenzie River watershed east of Eugene, Oregon. Large wood structures will be placed in the active channel and floodplain to improve habitat and stream function for native spring Chinook salmon, rainbow trout, and cutthroat trout. | 75,506 | Lane |

Region 3 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order (Continued) | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-3020 | The Freshwater Trust | Upper Sandy River Basin Aquatic Habitat restoration Project | Proposed restoration will increase side channel habitat, floodplain connectivity, and instream large wood abundance on the Salmon River and Lost Creek, which are tributaries to the Sandy River. This will provide habitat for native salmon and steelhead fish. | 316,306 | Clackamas |
| 218-3031 | Benton County Parks Department | Jackson-Frazier Wetland Phase 2: Long Term Habitat Restoration Project | Proposed project will restore wetland habitat and native plant diversity within the 50-acre Jackson-Frazier Wetland, which is a Benton County managed property outside the Corvallis Urban Growth Boundary. Project will restore wetland habitat that supports native and rare plant and wildlife species. | 109,908 | Benton |
| 218-3023 | Luckiamute Watershed Council | Upper Ritner Creek Splash Dam Recovery Project | Proposed restoration on Ritner Creek, located in the upper Luckiamute watershed, will address the legacy effects of splash damming by placing logs instream and planting conifers along the stream. This will result in immediate and long-term benefits to salmonid habitat and key ecological processes throughout the 2.1 mile project reach. | 88,121 | Polk |
| 218-3026 | Tualatin Watershed Council | EF Dairy Large Wood Placement Project | Proposed restoration on East Fork Dairy Creek, located in the Tualatin River watershed, will address the lack of instream large wood required for developing and sustaining off channel connectivity, increase shade for water temperature maintenance, and plant streamside conifers for long term wood recruitment stream. This will provide winter and summer habitat benefits to native salmon. | 118,926 | Washington |
| 218-3022 | Johnson Creek Watershed Council | Mitchell Creek Temperature and Fish Passage Enhancement Resubmittal | Proposed restoration is located on Mitchell Creek in the Johnson Creek Watershed and an unincorporated area of Multnomah County between Gresham and Portland. This project will remove an artificially constructed pond and restore the original stream channel and streamside vegetation, which will result in water temperature and fish passage improvements. | 85,893 | Multnomah |
| Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff | | | | 1,565,971 | |

Region 3 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Restoration Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-3034 | Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah | Mt. Pisgah Oak-Pine Woodland, Oak Savanna, and Wet Prairie Restoration: Ponderosa Unit | Proposed restoration is located on the eastern portion of Lane County's 2,218-acre Buford Park near the confluence of the Willamette's Coast and Middle Forks. This project will restore and enhance wetland prairie, upland prairie, oak savanna, and oak woodland habitats across a 110 acre unit. These actions are expected to benefit 17 at-risk species known to occur in the Mt. Pisgah area that depend on these prairie, oak savanna and oak woodland habitats, including the Western | 98,879 | Lane |
| 218-3021 | Cascade Pacific RC&D | North and South Valentine Stream Buffer Improvement | Proposed restoration located on Valentine Creek, a tributary to the North Santiam River, will use the Rapid Riparian Revegetation method to restore a fully-functioning streamside area. This will stabilize soils, decrease sediment from entering the water ways, reestablish native woody vegetation, suppress nonnatives and improve fish and wildlife habitat and water quality throughout the project area. | 157,661 | Marion |
| 218-3032 | Calapooia Watershed Council | Oak Creek Open Space - Phase 1 Restoration Expanded | Proposed restoration site is located on the south side of Albany, Oregon; and is partially bordered by the Calapooia and Oak Creek, the Calapooia's largest tributary. This project will connect and improve fragmented habitats important to grassland and wetland prairie dependent birds, control invasive plant species, and restore refuge habitat for juvenile native fish. | 176,096 | Linn |
| 218-3029 | Long Tom Watershed Council | Coyote-Spencer Wetlands Oak and Prairie Habitat Restoration | Proposed restoration will occur on the 191-acre Coyote-Spencer Wetlands property that sits at the confluence of Coyote and Spencer creeks, which are tributaries to the Long Tom River. This project will restore former wet prairie and oak savanna on the property where intact plant communities remain and hosts dozens of native plant species, including federally listed Bradshaw's lomatium. | 113,090 | Lane |
| Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | 2,111,697 | |
| Restoration Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County | |
| 218-3019 | Molalla River Watch Inc. | Molalla Side Channel Restoration | 104,494 | Clackamas | |

Region 3 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-3040 | Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council | Elijah Bristow State Park Floodplain Restoration Design | Proposed technical assistance is for a 664-acre area within the Elijah Bristow State Park that is located at the confluence of the Middle Fork Willamette River with Lost Creek. Due to its location below three large dams and historic land use practices, the dynamism of this floodplain has been lost and has led to a more static environment. This project will use a stream process-based, interdisciplinary, multi-species approach to floodplain restoration design at the project location to restore floodplain function. | 75,000 | Lane |
| 218-3039 | Pudding River Watershed Council | Abiqua Creek, Salmon and Trout Side-Channel Habitat Enhancement, Large Wood Placement, Design | Proposed technical assistance will identify restoration project site locations and create designs for instream large wood placement on Abiqua Creek, a tributary to the Pudding River. This will address habitat degradation due to the loss of large conifers in the riparian corridor and benefit Upper Willamette steelhead. | 24,526 | Marion |
| 218-3037 | McKenzie Watershed Alliance | Gate Creek Enhancement Project Development | Proposed technical assistance on Gate Creek, a tributary to the McKenzie River, will identify and develop aquatic enhancement projects that will address the lack of large wood within stream channels and the floodplain. This has altered natural stream processes and impacted habitat for native fish, including spring Chinook salmon, rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey. | 15,180 | Lane |
| 218-3035 | Scappoose Bay Watershed Council | Milton Creek Technical Restoration Planning | Proposed technical assistance on lower Milton Creek, a tributary to Scappoose Bay, will provide designs that address poor instream and streamside conditions and disconnected historical side-channels. This will provide stream habitat for native coho and chum salmon, steelhead, and trout. | 50,961 | Columbia |
| 218-3043 | Sandy River Basin Watershed Council | Kelly Creek Dam Removal Feasibility | Proposed technical assistance will investigate the ecological, economic, and social feasibility of removing the Kelly Creek dam, which is located on the Mt. Hood Community College campus. This dam is located in the Beaver Creek drainage, which is a tributary of the Sandy River. Resulting restoration will provide access to spawning and rearing habitat for juvenile coho, chinook, and steelhead; and provide water quality benefits since the pond above the dam is negatively impacting water temperature. | 44,880 | Multnomah |

Region 3 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order (Continued) | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-3041 | Long Tom Watershed Council | Lower Long Tom Historic Channel Reconnection Design | Proposed technical assistance is located on the Long Tom River, in the town of Monroe. The lower Long Tom River from Fern Ridge Dam downstream was channelized in 1943 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reduce flooding, which reduced the total channel length from 36.5 to 23.6 mile. This also reduced the amount of complex off-channel habitat available for native fish and wildlife and floodplain connectivity. The proposed project will develop designs and acquire regulatory permits to reconnect 0.23 miles of off-channel habitat and 6.5 acres of mature floodplain forest to the mainstem Long Tom River. | 47,113 | Benton |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff | | | | 257,660 | |
| Technical Assistance Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Recommended | County |
| 218-3042 | North Clackamas Urban Watershed Council | Resubmit- NCUWC 10-Year Restoration Action Plan | Proposed technical assistance will identify restoration priorities across the four tributaries that drain into the Willamette River between the Clackamas River and Johnson Creek. This area provides rearing habitat, and limited migrating and spawning habitat for threatened and endangered salmonids and other priority species including: steelhead, coho, chinook, pacific lamprey, and cutthroat trout. Resulting technical assistance will be used as a guide to future restoration designs and implementation. | 37,794 | Clackamas |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | 295,454 | |
| Technical Assistance Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County | |
| 218-3036 | Pudding River WC | Pudding River Turtle Mapping Habitat Assessment- GIS Mapping and Landowner Identification Project | 11,935 | Clackamas | |
| 218-3038 | Pudding River WC | Scotts Mills Dam Assessment and Alternatives Analysis | 33,458 | Marion | |

Region 3 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-3046 | South Santiam Watershed Council | South Santiam & North Santiam Focus Project Development | Proposed stakeholder engagement is located in the South Santiam, North Santiam, and Mill Creek Watersheds. This project will continue building on previous successes by developing a strategic recruitment campaign that offers landowners one-on-one individual conservation planning consultations and two three-part land conservation training workshops to develop land management plans. | 51,863 | Linn |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff | | | | 51,863 | |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount | County |
| 218-3048 | Sandy River Basin Watershed Council | Beaver Creek Fish Passage and Riparian Vegetation Restoration | Proposed stakeholder engagement is located in the Beaver Creek watershed, the lowest tributary to the Sandy River. This project will secure community support and active involvement in implementing fish passage and riparian vegetation restoration projects that will support recovery of ESA-listed salmon in the watershed and address water temperature concerns impacting water quality. | 22,875 | Multnomah |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT | | | | 74,738 | |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Not Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County | |
| 218-3049 | Clackamas River Basin Council | Stakeholder Engagement for a Healthy Clackamas Watershed | 36,773 | Clackamas | |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Deemed Ineligible Prior to Review | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County | |
| 218-3047 | Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership | Sandy River Delta Stakeholder Engagement Project | 37,872 | Multnomah | |

Region 3 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-3045 | Calapooia Watershed Council | Wild Winter Steelhead - Upper Calapooia Monitoring | Proposed monitoring will occur in the Upper Calapooia River to complete 2 years of winter steelhead redd surveys and collect summer water temperature data. This will provide information on the current status of adult winter steelhead in the mainstem Calapooia and its major tributaries, and the location of suitable water temperatures for native fish summer rearing and migration. This data can be used to create a stream reach wide restoration plan that will focus restoration efforts in areas where they will be the most cost effective. | 95,576 | Linn |
| 218-3044 | McKenzie Watershed Alliance | Oregon Spotted Frog Monitoring Project | Proposed monitoring will provide the first data and analysis of Oregon Spotted Frog population response to habitat alteration caused by beaver in the Northwest, and perhaps the first before-after and treatment-control design for amphibians and beaver in the USA. Understanding these dynamics will inform the planning, management, and expectations around wildlife responses to natural beaver expansions and beaver translocations and reintroductions restoration approaches throughout the range of Oregon Spotted Frog. | 55,152 | Lane |
| Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff | | | | 150,728 | |
| Monitoring Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount Recommended | County | |
| None | | None | | | |
| Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT | | | | 150,728 | |
| Monitoring Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount Requested | County | |
| None | | None | | | |
| Region 3 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award | | | | 2,026,222 | 19% |
| Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award | | | | 10,753,978 | |

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3019-15922

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Molalla Side Channel Restoration

Applicant: Molalla River Watch Inc

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$104,494

Total Cost: \$157,969

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This mainstem Molalla Side Channel Restoration application is the product of an OWEB funded TA grant that was utilized to identify highly productive side channels for the provision of thermal refuge for rearing salmonids during low summer flow regimes when the mainstem Molalla is 303d listed for temperature. All of the site selection, landowner outreach and preliminary project design was completed by the TA. This submittal is requesting final design and implementation funds for the construction associated with protecting and enhancing 4 unique side channels on 3 different partner properties along the mainstem Molalla River (Schmidt, Sauvageau and Moehnke). The target side channels are between RM 14 and RM 26. This 12 mile segment of the mainstem that extends from the Hwy 213 bridge crossing to the confluence of the NF Molalla was identified in the 2012 RBA Final Report document as the key rearing habitat for the listed spring chinook salmon. The project builds stable point bar log jams in the upstream inlets of these 4 side channels to keep the side channel protected from avulsion by the mainstem during winter flow regimes. The lack of large coniferous wood being recruited from Molalla River riparian corridors has left side channels vulnerable to flood flows and rendered them as ephemeral features on the landscape. There is ample evidence that side channel habitats in the Molalla River historically were much longer lived and capable of providing summer thermal refugia for decades. In addition to inlet protection, edge oriented scour logs will be placed within the side channels to scour deep pockets down to bedrock in an effort to access a very cold hyporheic lens of water disconnected from the summer warm flows of the mainstem Molalla River. A select few reference channels still exist in the basin to guide site selection and design. These reference side channels also contained 61% of all juvenile coho rearing in the basin in 2011 and 21% of all juvenile chinook.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is well-written.
- The proposed restoration will benefit ESA-listed fish by providing rearing habitat.
- The project is based on rapid bio-assessments (RBA) and watershed analysis data that all recommend side-channel restoration as the highest value in the Molalla watershed because 70% of the fish are found in cooler side-channel pools.
- Partner and landowner support is demonstrated by letters of support and match.
- The project is a reasonable cost for the proposed restoration.
- The contractor for the project has extensive experience working in stream restoration.

Concerns

- The project design does not appear to fit the hydrology of the stream reach, which results in uncertainty in how this design will work in achieving expected watershed benefits.
- The project is intended to create side-channel refugia habitat in a high energy system, which will have unpredictable results in which some side-channels will probably function by tapping into hyporheic flow, some will fill with sediment and not scour, and some will scour without tapping into hyporheic flow.
- It is unclear how upland logs will be moved down to the stream without significant damage to riparian habitat since the site is a long distance from the road.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project will test an unusual design approach to side-channels with an initial 4 landowners, and has potential to expand to 17 channels. Selected side-channels target the highest priority channels identified through previous RBA work. The project is designed to address unique challenges occurring in the Molalla watershed, and may be the best effort to achieve lower water temperature in side-channels. Since the mainstem has strong flows, this side-channel approach may be the best opportunity in the basin; however, it is still unclear if the design approach is technically sound and likely to succeed. This project appears to be designed to use apex log jams to cut off portions of a depositional stream environment. Typically in a depositional environment, the natural function is to allow water to move where it wants to go; therefore, the design approach contradicts this natural function. It is also unclear how cutting off a side-channel will increase hyporheic flow. If there is no change to the elevation in the main channel to aggrade the mainstem, there will not be much change in hyporheic flow in the side-channel. The side-channel will get some hyporheic flow; however, it will probably be flow that already existed in the channel. If this application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to provide additional information on how the design approach is likely to succeed, including examples of this approach working in other locations or other evidence used to inform the design approach.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3020-15931

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Sandy River Basin Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project

Applicant: The Freshwater Trust

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$316,306

Total Cost: \$929,704

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Sandy River salmon and steelhead populations have declined over the last century due to degradation of habitat and other factors. The Sandy River Basin Partners (the Partners) have identified the tributaries Salmon River and Lost Creek as providing high quality anchor habitat for the basin's native fish, and are aligned on a near term goal of restoring these sub-watersheds to advance Sandy basin-scale restoration. On behalf of the Partners, The Freshwater Trust (TFT), US Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are taking the lead on the Upper Sandy River Basin Habitat Restoration Project, which will address primary limiting factors by increasing side channel habitat/floodplain connectivity and large wood abundance on the Salmon River and Lost Creek. Restoration actions include: reactivation of flow to historic side channels and floodplain habitat, construction of large wood habitat structures, and placement of additional large wood in side channels and on stream margins. Proposed work is on public land managed by the USFS and BLM, located near Welches, Oregon in Clackamas County. This project is part of a larger, multi-year watershed scale restoration effort, and builds on similar successful projects completed in the basin by TFT and the Partners since 2008. OWEB funding will support TFT staff time for project design/permitting, project management, construction, travel, administration and reporting. Post-project monitoring will follow construction to establish as-built conditions. Physical habitat surveys will be repeated in summer 2019 and after bankfull events thereafter. Fish surveys will occur seasonally based on time of use.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed restoration is similar to previous work completed in the watershed that has proven successful as demonstrated by evidence from fish return data.
- The project is located in a priority watershed with known use by ESA-listed Chinook, coho, and steelhead.
- Since this project is on public lands, there is reduced risk associated with placing large wood structures because there are no houses in adjacent areas.
- The project team has a proven track record as a successful partnership.

Concerns

- The Lost Creek portion of the project is a lower priority in the Sandy Basin Partnership. The

application is unclear on how this part of the project fits into the restoration puzzle for the Sandy Basin as a timely priority now. Since Lost Creek was chosen because Forest Service had money available to treat the upper watersheds, this portion of the project may be more opportunistic than strategic.

- Some project costs seem high compared to similar projects, such as costs associated with moving equipment.
- Designs cited in the application are based on 2014 and 2015 work; the application would be strengthened by including current project designs.
- The application would benefit from the same level of detailed information such as that provided in previous applications for earlier project phases.

Concluding Analysis

This project is part of a phased approach in the Sandy Basin in 6th field subwatersheds of the upper basin. Restoration strategies for the Still Creek subwatershed are now complete, and this proposal completes restoration strategies in the Salmon River subwatershed. The Upper Sandy has numerous ESA-listed fish species, making it priority area for in-stream restoration. Furthermore, post-project data from previous work demonstrate this stream system typically has an outstanding response to restoration that improves fish run numbers. The project has a high benefit-cost ratio and high likelihood of success for the investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

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Review Team Recommended Amount

\$316,306

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$316,306

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3021-15942
Project Name: North & South Valentine Stream
Buffer Improvement

Project Type: Restoration

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Marion

OWEB Request: \$157,661

Total Cost: \$217,761

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Valentine Creek is a direct tributary to the North Santiam River, entering the mainstem just above the town of Stayton and below the City of Salem's water intake facility located at Geren Island. In 2009, the Valentine Creek subbasin was one of three subbasins selected in the Lower North Santiam to be part of the Willamette Model Watershed Program, a regional program designed to help improve and restore watershed health at a subbasin scale. The NSWC is proposing to restore approximately 25.3 acres of agricultural riparian buffer along the headwaters of the North and South Valentine tributaries, which support native Coastal cutthroat trout and Pacific lamprey. Riparian wildlife habitat is degraded in both tributary reaches with invasive weeds prevalent throughout riparian zones. The lack of a fully-functioning riparian area is also having an impact on water quality by allowing excess sediment into the waterways. The NSWC will utilize the Rapid Riparian Revegetation method to help stabilize the soils, decrease sediment from entering the water ways, reestablish native woody vegetation, suppress nonnatives and improve fish and wildlife habitat throughout the project reaches. The NSWC will use this project as an example of how a large working farm can be compatible with clean water and high quality fish and wildlife habitat. Project and funding partners include the Beitel Family, Marion County, Marion Soil and Water Conservation District and Meyer Memorial Trust. OWEB funds will be used for project management, contracted services and supplies and materials.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Valentine Creek provides habitat to ESA-listed fish in areas downstream of the project site.
- The proposed project has high potential to recruit interest from neighbors to become involved in voluntary restoration.
- This is a well-designed project to meet restoration objectives described in the application and will benefit water quality by reducing sedimentation and improving water temperature.
- The restoration effort is supported by a committed landowner, which is demonstrated by previous restoration on 11 upstream acres and efforts to maintain that work.
- The project builds on previous efforts completed through the Willamette Model Watershed and is ready to implement.
- Previous Regional Review Team comments are addressed in the application.

Concerns

- The proposed restoration will have limited direct benefit to ESA-listed fish, which limits the cost-benefit for this project.
- While the project can demonstrate how a working farm can be compatible with habitat restoration, land in agricultural production and the presence of a power line limit the potential riparian buffer on one side of the creek.

Concluding Analysis

The project design approach provides a compromise for working with agriculture and retaining economic function for the farmer while restoring habitats. The greatest benefit of this project is the potential social capital that could be gained in recruiting adjacent landowners in this basin to participate in voluntary restoration. There could be a higher ecological return on this project if more landowners were recruited to participate, which would improve the cost-benefit of this investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

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Review Team Recommended Amount

\$157,661

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3022-15991

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Mitchell Creek temperature and fish passage enhancement_Resubmital

Applicant: Johnson Creek WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Multnomah

OWEB Request: \$85,893

Total Cost: \$203,601

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This temperature reduction and fish passage improvement project is located on Mitchell Creek in the Johnson Creek Watershed, in unincorporated Multnomah County between Gresham and Portland. The 35-acre property, owned by the Centennial School District, contains an artificially constructed in-line pond (creek flows through pond but is hydraulically disconnected by an earthen racetrack and 2 small, perched culverts) that is both a fish passage barrier and a source of local thermal pollution to Mitchell Creek and downstream Kelley Creek. Monitoring in 2016 showed that water exiting this pond is as much as 14C higher than the water flowing into the pond on hot summer days. High stream temperature is one of the most significant factors limiting salmonid population on Johnson Creek, and is so documented in the Lower Willamette TMDL (ORDEQ, 2006). JCWC's 10-year Action Plan lists stream temperature reduction as a priority. Taking inline ponds offline is listed there as a key strategy, along with riparian planting, to reduce temperatures. Proposed work includes a) removing two culverts (and associated fill material) that have created the pond by restricting flow; b) adding large wood and beaver dam analogs for habitat and channel stability; c) adding grade control to both ends of the pond to prevent head cutting; d) restoring wetlands along the historic channel by eliminating the artificial pond and replanting native wetland vegetation, e) replanting riparian and upland area to encourage off-channel wetlands and to restore native grass, herbs, and shrubs, OWEB funds will be used for contracted construction services, revegetation, project management, travel, and indirect costs. Project partners include JCWC, Centennial School District, Metro, DEQ, TNC/PGE, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District and NCCC. What's changed? Project will occur in 2 phases, lower engineering costs, less site manipulation, and budget reduced 15%!

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is likely to have significant benefits to water quality in Mitchell and Kelley Creeks that will provide water temperature improvements in the Johnson Creek watershed, which is on the 303(d) list for water quality impairment.
- Previous review team comments are addressed in this application.
- The need for proposed restoration is well-documented in the Johnson Creek Action Plan and the project steam reach is a priority in that plan.
- The project manager has relevant experience to implement this project.

Concerns

- The landowner does not appear to be an active, engaged project partner even though removing the pond will reduce future liability for the school district.
- Hauling excavated material offsite is a significant project cost that could be reduced if the material is moved to another location on the property. It is unclear from the application why this is not a feasible alternative.
- Project design may have more engineering than is needed to achieve target restoration objectives and associated benefits, which results in a high overall project cost.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed restoration has potential to create significant ecological uplift by providing cooler water that will benefit fish in the Johnson Creek watershed. Since the watershed council is also monitoring stream temperatures, there is opportunity to measure how this restoration will impact stream temperatures. Furthermore, there is potential for this project to serve as a gateway to additional restoration efforts, including a downstream dam removal project that will extend fish access to habitat in this stream system. As a result, the potential ecological benefits for the cost could be significant for the stream while increasing watershed resilience in an area with increasing urbanization.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

11 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$85,893

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$85,893

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3023-15998

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Ritner Creek Splash Dam Recovery Project

Applicant: Luckiamute WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Polk

OWEB Request: \$88,121

Total Cost: \$128,796

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Upper Ritner Creek Splash Dam Recovery project area lies within the timberlands of the upper Luckiamute watershed in the Pedee 6th field hydrologic unit. Ritner Creek drains into the mainstem Luckiamute near the community of Pedee in Polk County. Ritner Creek and the upper Luckiamute were heavily impacted by splash damming in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Historical splash damming and removal of conifers in the riparian area damaged Ritner Creek in several ways. The legacy effects of splash damming persist in this reach and continue to impact salmonid habitat and ecosystem processes. The stream bed is scoured to bedrock, the channel is devoid of instream large wood, riparian conifers are absent in large sections of the reach, there are very few gravel deposits, and there is little channel-floodplain interaction. The Luckiamute Watershed Council (LWC) used NetMap, a fine-scale watershed based modeling tool, in combination with expert field verification to identify and prioritize restoration reaches for splash dam and steelhead recovery in the Luckiamute basin. The analysis identified the proposed project reach as the best opportunity in the Luckiamute watershed for addressing the legacy impacts of splash damming. Resolving current and future instream large wood deficiencies through log placement, conifer enrichment, and understory enhancement will result in both immediate and long-term benefits to salmonid habitat and key ecological processes throughout the 2.1 mile project reach. The LWC is partnering with Hancock Forest Management (on behalf of the property owners) and the Bureau of Land Management (landowner), for project implementation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Sourcing wood from the Riparian Management Area for instream structures will improve future large wood recruitment watershed functions. Also, the proposed restoration will serve as a non-commercial thin, which will release the stand for long-term growth and create long-term, self-sustaining large wood recruitment.
- The proposed restoration is based on rigorous analysis of the watershed used to determine the best locations for stream restoration, which increases the likelihood for success and cost-benefit of the proposed project.
- Since the stream has minimal channel incision, there is a high likelihood for success in reconnecting the floodplain by a rapid response of the stream system to restoration actions. It seems feasible a 1-year flood event could result in enough captured material to aggrade the stream channel and reconnect the floodplain with the stream.

- The project team has relevant experience and a proven track record with watershed restoration projects.

Concerns

- Tributaries on the west side of the Willamette are not priority strongholds for ESA-listed fish; however, this restoration will likely provide some benefit to steelhead.
- A portion of the riparian area will potentially be available for commercial harvest in 40 years.

Concluding Analysis

The historic practice of splash dams heavily impacted streams like Ritner Creek. The proposed project provides an opportunity to begin restoring watershed process and function that was lost due to splash dams in this creek, and also to inform future restoration in other streams impacted by this historic practice. While the project location has limited benefit to ESA-listed fish, it is expected there will be some benefit to steelhead. The combination of recovering a splash dammed system and providing benefits to steelhead results in a significant benefit for the investment. Also, this project is a technically sound, straight-forward, and cost-effective large wood project that is likely to succeed in achieving expected ecological benefits.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

9 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$88,121

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$88,121

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3024-16001

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Milton Creek Large Wood

Applicant: Scappoose Bay WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$218,798

Total Cost: \$357,718

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Project is located in upper Milton Creek, a tributary to Scappoose Bay, the Multnomah Channel and Lower Columbia River. Restoration occurs on 2.5 mainstem miles, directly upstream of a project completed in 2015 that added large wood over 3.5 miles. This project addresses key salmon-production limiting factors identified in the Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan (ODFW, 2011) and the Milton Creek Limiting Factor Analysis (SBWC, 2012): 1) lack of physical habitat quality and complexity, including low quantity of in-stream large wood and resulting loss of pools and refuge habitat, and loss of floodplain connectivity; and 2) the low numbers of riparian conifers for future wood recruitment. Project will install approximately 63 large wood structures, targeting wood numbers up to ODFW's recommendation of 200 logs/mile; and will plant 3000 native conifer trees at locations selected for efficient riparian infill. Project will create a significant increase in number of pools, fish refuge areas, and side-channel habitats, as well as trap, store and retain gravels. Native vegetation will provide future wood along 2.5 miles of stream; when combined with the 2015 project, this will create nearly 6 miles of upper Milton Creek with high quality habitat. Project outcomes support Lower Columbia River Coho salmon, Winter Steelhead and trout species. Project partners are ODFW, Weyerhaeuser, NORP, and Columbia River Youth Corps.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes clear project objectives.
- The proposed restoration addresses watershed limiting factors in a high value area of the Scappoose Bay watershed for ESA-listed fisheries. The need for this restoration is well-documented in planning documents, including a strategic action plan for the Scappoose Bay watershed.
- The project builds on past restoration work completed in the adjacent 3.5 miles located upstream of the project site.
- The project budget is reasonable for expected watershed benefits.
- The contractor and partners on the project team have experience with similar projects.

Concerns

- The design method is not fully defined in the application; however, the proposal includes plans for final project designs that will include determining how and where large wood structures and conifer plantings will occur.

- One of the letters of support references cabling the log structures upstream of the bridge; however, the application does not provide information on this design element. The application would be strengthened by additional information to better understand the chosen design alternatives.

Concluding Analysis

While the application would be strengthened by additional design information, the design approach was clearly explained on the site visit. This project is ready to be implemented in a priority location for ESA-listed fish, and completes the last 3 stream miles needing restoration in this subwatershed. In addition to expanding connected stream habitat, the project ties together other investments in the Milton Creek drainage that are restoring anchor habitat and addressing primary limiting factors, including limited summer habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$218,798

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$218,798

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3025-16030

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower Deer Creek Enhancement Project

Applicant: McKenzie Watershed Alliance

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$75,506

Total Cost: \$166,726

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Lower Deer Creek Enhancement Project (Project) is located on Deer Creek in the McKenzie River Sub-basin at river mile 49 on the McKenzie River, 34 miles east of Eugene and near the unincorporated community of Nimrod. Legacy and current land management has resulted in a lack of large wood within the active channel and floodplain. The lack of large wood has altered natural processes and reduced the quality and quantity of habitat available to native fish. In order to improve habitat and stream function for spring Chinook salmon, rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, and other native species, wood placement will occur on the lower 0.68 miles of Deer Creek in both the active channel and floodplain. The Project will occur on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in partnership with the McKenzie Watershed Alliance (MWA). The Project includes a monitoring component designed to track the progress of habitat enhancement in meeting stated objectives and outreach intended to raise awareness and develop support for complementary projects. OWEB funding will support contracted services, project management, travel, and fiscal administration, and will be matched by in-kind materials and staff time from the BLM.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This well-written application includes clear measurable objectives that are tied to effectiveness monitoring activities described in the application.
- The proposed restoration was identified in watershed analyses, ESA recovery and conservation plans, and a watershed council 10-year action plan.
- This proposal has a technically sound and straightforward large wood project design that is appropriately located to have maximum benefit in the McKenzie watershed. The proposed restoration will jump start natural instream processes and provide habitat to ESA-listed fish.
- The project team has a proven track record with similar stream restoration; therefore, this project has a high likelihood for success.
- Partner support is demonstrated by letters of support and match. The project also uniquely incorporates recreation stakeholders by utilizing riverguides and steelheaders to collect survey data.
- The project is reasonably priced for the expected watershed benefits.

Concerns

- The project design would benefit from keeping the trees to be pushed over from adjacent areas fully intact with root wads instead of bucking these trees before moving them. Whole trees with root wads have proven benefits in these environments.
- Match value for trees provided as in-kind contribution seems high compared to other BLM related projects contributing trees; however, based on the size of the trees seen on the site visit the value may feasibly be different.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed restoration will benefit watershed function and habitat for ESA-listed fish at a reasonable cost. The applicant is encouraged to consider using the contingency budget line item to pay for additional costs associated with keeping trees whole with root wads, and transporting them down to the stream intact to provide additional ecological benefit from this restoration. The project is a technically sound, straight forward cost-effective large wood project that is likely to succeed in achieving expected ecological benefits.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$75,506

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$75,506

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3026-16031

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: EF Dairy Large Wood Placement project

Applicant: Tualatin River WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Washington

OWEB Request: \$137,339

Total Cost: \$276,259

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project is located on an East Fork Dairy Creek stream reach between river mile 12.96 and 15.96. East Fork Dairy Creek drains 58.9 square acres and following its confluence with West Fork Dairy and McKay Creeks flows into the Tualatin River at river mile 45. North Plains located in Washington County is the closest town to the project. The 2013-14 Tualatin Basin rapid bio-assessment surveys identified a six mile stream reach located on the main stem of East Fork Dairy Creek as having the large percentage of all salmon documented in the Tualatin Basin. This stream reach lacks floodplain connectivity needed for essential winter habitat refugia, though it provides high quality incubation and summer rearing habitat. The project will address the lack of large wood required for developing and sustaining off channel connectivity; increase the availability of shade for temperature maintenance; and provide conifer for long term wood recruitment to the active channel. The proposed project work will include i) placing large wood debris in main stem, tributary and side channel reaches to increase in stream complexity and floodplain linkage; and ii) treating invasive plant species on and installing native plants on seven project properties that will result in future large wood recruitment and canopy closure. Project partners include seven private landowners and the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project focuses on an area in the Tualatin watershed that has the greatest potential for ecological uplift and treating primary watershed limiting factors affecting ESA-listed fish.
- The project location is based on Rapid Bio-Assessment data and is in an ODA focus area.
- The contractor that will implement proposed restoration has extensive experience working in similar types of stream systems in the Willamette west-side tributaries.

Concerns

- The project design does not include full spanning large wood debris structures and planting plans are limited to conifers, which reduces the potential ecological uplift that could be gained from stream restoration efforts.
- Some project components are unclear from the application; however, these were better understood from discussions at the site visit.

- The bio-revetment project element will use pre-commercial thin logs with a high cost for trees that do not have commercial value.
- Based on the list of permits provided in the application, it is unclear if the permitting pathway is well-defined. The diversity of permits listed indicates that the applicant is going in numerous different permit directions, which might be challenging during implementation.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project will eventually restore a 6-mile stream reach with a high number of ESA-listed fish. This first phase will treat 3 miles while developing relationships with additional landowners to recruit future restoration. This will expand the corridor of restored stream habitat on the East Fork Dairy Creek. Restoration actions will occur in a priority location of the Tualatin basin, which will provide meaningful cost-benefit for this investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced

Review Team Priority

10 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$118,926

Review Team Conditions

Fund reduced. Reduce award to remove cost for buying pre-commercial thin trees for bio-revetment and retain the cost to transport these trees. Reduce award by \$16,000 plus associated administration.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund Reduced

Staff Recommended Amount

\$118,926

Staff Conditions

Fund reduced. Reduce award to remove cost for buying pre-commercial thin trees for bio-revetment and retain the cost to transport these trees. Reduce award by \$16,000 plus associated administration.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3027-16032

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Jont Creek Barrier Removal and Off channel Habitat Improvement

Applicant: Polk SWCD

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Polk

OWEB Request: \$98,879

Total Cost: \$143,509

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Jont Creek is a tributary to the Luckiamute River in Polk County. This basin harbors ESU Steelhead, ESU Chinook, Oregon chub, Pacific lamprey, and Coastal cutthroat trout. Jont Creek has a single impassible barrier less than 0.75 miles upstream of the Luckiamute. Removal of this barrier would open over 9 miles of fish habitat and the opportunity to improve the over 45 acres of wetland habitat surrounding the culvert. This proposal requests OWEB restoration funds to implement the technical support grant already funded by OWEB in 2015 to address the existing barriers, installation of a fish passable crossing design and restore the surrounding riparian off channel habitats and wetlands. The landowner and USFWS will provide significant cash and in-kind contributions to the project implementation, with support from ODFW and the Luckiamute WC; the Polk SWCD will continue to provide overall project management, contracting and fiscal administration of this project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located on a Luckiamute River tributary in a low elevation floodplain valley bottom area.
- The proposed restoration builds on a technical assistance investment and project designs meet ODFW and NOAA fish passage requirements.
- The project will provide multiple benefits, including improving floodplain function, water quality by encouraging cooler water temperatures, and habitats for ESA-listed species, species of concern and Oregon Conservation Strategy species (e.g. Oregon chub, yellow breasted chat, willow flycatcher, Pacific lamprey, red-legged frog, Coastal cutthroat, steelhead).
- The project is supported by partners, and landowner commitment is demonstrated by ongoing plans for habitat restoration on this property that has five miles of river frontage.

Concerns

- The net ecological uplift to ESA-listed fisheries may be more modest compared to other locations in the Willamette; however, the project will provide habitat for Oregon chub.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project takes a holistic cross-habitat floodplain strategy that will benefit watershed function, habitats supporting multiple fish and wildlife species, and water quality. While benefits to ESA-listed fish are somewhat limited, this project has potential for providing significant ecological uplift for the cost. The combination of future plans for riparian and wetland restoration and the potential for adjacent landowners to participate in restoring habitat results in an effective cost-benefit for this investment. Also, this project has potential for social capital gains that is likely to lead to recruiting adjacent landowners to participate in restoration that will further shade and cool stream flow. This project provides a rare opportunity in the Willamette to work on the valley bottom at a stream confluence to benefit a diverse list of fish and wildlife species.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$98,879

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$98,879

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3028-16037 **Project Type:** Restoration
Project Name: Bonnie Lure State Recreation Area
Applicant: Clackamas River Basin Council
Basin: Willamette Basin **County:** Clackamas
OWEB Request: \$133,990 **Total Cost:** \$399,528

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed restoration project is located in Bonnie Lure State Recreation Area (45°34'97.31N 122°38'24.63W) an Oregon State Park owned property located in Eagle Creek, Oregon. The property includes the confluence of Eagle Creek and the mainstem Clackamas River and can be accessed from SE Dowty Road. This project is designed to return Bonnie Lure to its baseline conditions by eradicating invasive species and re-establishing native plant communities including mixed riparian forest, shrub scrub wetland, and conifer-dominated foothills. Himalayan blackberry, reed canarygrass, English ivy, clematis and false brome dominate the area and negatively impact riparian functioning. Proposed work would consist of site prep, including hand cutting weeds and then treating resprouts with aquatically labeled herbicide. The project would be maintained with matching funds from the US Forest Service's and in-kind match from Oregon State Parks.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located at a high quality site that is protected in perpetuity as a state park.
- Project partner support is demonstrated by match contributions.
- The project team is qualified with a proven track record with similar restoration activities.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by letters of support from both the Clackamas SWCD as a partner in the weed-wise program and the USFS regarding the grant that is critical to maintaining proposed vegetation work.
- The proposed vegetation restoration will have limited direct benefit to ESA-listed fish.

Concluding Analysis

While the current project has limited direct benefits to ESA-fish, the proposed work has potential for leading to a future in-stream project that will have significant benefit to fish. The project is located on Eagle Creek, which is a high value location in the Clackamas River system for ESA-listed fish. The applicant provides a strong case for the need for proposed restoration activities to be completed. Given

the likelihood for success, priority location within the watershed, and potential for expanded benefits with future restoration, this project provides a significant cost-benefit for the investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$133,990

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$133,990

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3029-16042

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Coyote-Spencer Wetlands Oak and Prairie Habitat Restoration

Applicant: Long Tom WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$113,090

Total Cost: \$190,669

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The 191-acre Coyote-Spencer Wetlands property, owned by the McKenzie River Trust, sits at the confluence of Coyote and Spencer creeks, tributaries to the Long Tom River (in turn, a tributary of the Willamette). It lies within the West Eugene Conservation Opportunity Area in a corridor prioritized by local land management organizations for its importance to preserving and restoring oak and prairie habitats. These habitats are among the most fragmented and endangered in Oregon. In 1983, GLO surveyors walking the (future) section lines that cross the property described open prairie on the valley bottom intersected by fringes of riparian woodland bordering Coyote and Spencer Creeks. Since then, cessation of fire management has allowed encroachment of woody plants, and weed pressures have surfaced from agricultural site uses. Still, remnant prairie on site hosts dozens of native plant species including federally listed Bradshaw's lomatium, and remarkably intact native prairie plant communities persist in the understory of the encroaching woody cover. This project proposes to: restore former wet prairie and oak savanna on the property where intact plant communities remain, enhance the structure and habitat value of existing prairie and oak woodland, and augment rare plant populations. The project will restore 10 acres of remnant oak savanna, and enhance 30 acres of existing wet and upland prairie and 30 acres of open canopy oak woodland. Partners on the project include McKenzie River Trust, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Institute for Applied Ecology, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, and Department of State Lands.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed restoration builds on previous work completed on this project site.
- Strong partnerships support the project and are demonstrated by letters and match.
- A detailed plan for restoration and clear budget detail is included in the application.
- The project is located in a conservation priority area and is part of a network of sites with conservation related projects along Coyote Creek.
- The project site has important, rare plants located on it, which makes it a priority location for restoration.

Concerns

- The project design is a conservative approach because of concerns related to maintaining restoration work; however, this approach misses opportunities to restore prairie habitat more comprehensively at the site that would increase the project benefit for the investment.
- There is limited information in the application for monitoring activities included in the proposal.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project incorporates technically sound restoration activities; however, the cost-benefit is limited by the narrow scope of the project approach. This conservative approach misses an opportunity for more comprehensive oak and prairie restoration on a project site that is owned and protected by a land trust.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

15 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$113,090

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3030-16046

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Carnine Upland Prairie and Oak Savanna Restoration

Applicant: Coast Fork Willamette WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$159,740

Total Cost: \$221,004

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The 326 acre property is located on the southeastern edge of the City of Cottage Grove within Lane County and the lower Row River watershed. This property contains rare but degraded Willamette Valley oak savanna and prairie habitats. Open-grown Oregon white oaks within the project area are threatened by conifer encroachment and overtopping, while the understory and prairie has been heavily invaded by exotic woody vegetation and non- native grasses. This loss of native habitat reduces biodiversity and negatively impacts important species that rely on these open habitats including acorn woodpecker, western bluebird, chipping sparrow, slender-billed nuthatch, and western gray squirrel. The proposed project will implement oak and prairie habitat restoration that includes: (1) thinning small and large-diameter firs and oaks around legacy trees to restore 46.58 acres of oak habitat; (2) enhancing 10.09 acres of prairie that include numerous rare and culturally important plants; and (3) controlling invasive plant species. The Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council (CFWWC) will implement this project in partnership with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who will provide technical support and a burn plan for restoration prescriptions. OWEB funds will be used for CFWWC staff, contracted services (tree thinning, weed removal/planting crews), travel, permits, and materials (grasses and forbs).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project site has a number of rare plant species present that could be negatively impacted if the conifers are not addressed soon. Results from a biodiversity survey indicate this site has a high number of rare forbs that will benefit from these restoration activities.
- The project is supported by landowners committed to restoration, which is demonstrated by their participation in voluntary restoration on other properties.
- The project builds on a Willamette Wildlife Management Program investment that provides long-term funding for maintenance.

Concerns

- No major concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project offers an opportunity for partners in the Coast Fork watershed to expand into a priority habitat type for the Willamette Valley. The restoration activities are urgent for continuing work that has already begun to restore native plant communities on the site. The legacy oaks are at risk of being lost if this work is not maintained. As a result, the proposed restoration is both time sensitive and provides a high benefit for the investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$159,740

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$159,740

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3031-16055

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Jackson-Frazier Wetland
Phase 2: Long Term Habitat Restoration Project

Applicant: Benton County Parks Dept

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Benton

OWEB Request: \$109,908

Total Cost: \$218,902

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project area is located in Benton County, outside the Corvallis Urban Growth Boundary near Lancaster Street. The project will occur within 50 acres of the southern portion of the Jackson-Frazier Wetland Natural Area managed by Benton County. The project area hydrology is supplied by Jackson and Frazier creeks. Prior to county protection of Jackson-Frazier Wetland, the property owner created extensive impacts. In 1985, Oregon Division of State Lands gained detailed documentation of these site impacts that are limiting watershed factors: altered habitat, impacts to native species, invasive species, and degradation of downstream salmonid habitat. The watershed continues to urbanize as part of the Corvallis UGB expansion and development plan. The majority of development is occurring within the upper portions of the watershed, placing priority on the restoration of the wetland for high value watershed functions. The restoration components to be implemented within 50 acres at Jackson-Frazier Wetland are: 1. Restore wetland hydrology through surface contouring, upland feature reduction, and increased soil saturation; 2. Restore vegetation diversity through woody plant reduction, invasive weed control, and native vegetation seeding; 3. Increase environmental education and outreach opportunities through habitat restoration demonstration areas, educational signage, and volunteer group stewardship work. 4. Maintain ecological gains through long term management of the priority restoration area. Starting in January 2017, project partners developed Phase 1: Jackson-Frazier Long Term Habitat Restoration Plan. Partners include Benton SWCD, City of Corvallis, Greenbelt Land Trust, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife- Habitat Restoration, and US Fish & Wildlife Service.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The restoration activities will benefit numerous rare and listed plant species located on this prairie habitat project site.
- Partner support is demonstrated by their active involvement and match.
- The project team has relevant experience, which supports a high likelihood for success.
- This project is located adjacent to large conservation projects to the west and north of the site. The resulting increased connectivity of these habitats provides a significant cost-benefit for this project investment compared to investing in isolated parcels.

- The restoration approach will address underlying hydrological issues at the site to ensure the project will be cost-effectively maintained. The altered hydrology is readily apparent when walking the property, which demonstrates the need for reestablishing a more natural hydrology pattern.

Concerns

- Fire is not an option for restoring the prairie because the project is in close proximity to a large urban area. Mowing will be used instead as a surrogate for fire, which is a tradeoff since it is not the most effective approach for prairie restoration.
- The consultant cost seems high compared to other wetland restoration projects.

Concluding Analysis

There are areas on the project site where underlying hydrologic issues have already been addressed and these locations are showing evidence of increased native floral diversity. This is an indicator that the proposed restoration is likely to succeed. The proposed project provides an outreach opportunity in addition to ecological benefits because it is located adjacent to the Corvallis Urban Growth Boundary and has heavy public use. It is uncommon to have this kind of public access to learn about high priority Willamette prairie habitats. The Jackson Frazier project will benefit ESA-listed plants and wet prairie community, a significantly limited habitat in the Willamette Valley, at a location that is permanently protected. As a result, this project is likely to have a high benefit for the investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$109,908

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$109,908

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3032-16059

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Oak Creek Open Space - Phase 1
Restoration Expanded

Applicant: Calapooia WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: \$176,096

Total Cost: \$235,615

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1. Restoration actions (see Map 1) will take place within Albany's Oak Creek Open Space natural area. The site is located on the south side of Albany, in Linn County, and is partially bordered by the Calapooia and Oak Creek, the Calapooia's largest tributary. The site is less than four miles upstream of the mouth of the Calapooia where it enters the Willamette. 2. Limiting factors to be addressed include loss of floodplain and riparian forests, off channel sloughs, and wetlands. The habitats are especially important in the lower watershed to provide refuge for juvenile native fish from high winter flows in the mainstem streams and rivers. This project will help connect and improve fragmented habitats important to grassland/wetland prairie dependent birds, and will control invasive plant species. 3. Restoration will occur in phases beyond the request of this proposal. Phase 1, includes 5 acres of riparian plant establishment, 12.4 acres of wetland plant establishment, and an additional 35.4 acres of invasive weed control in preparation for future planting. These actions were prioritized in the Oak Creek Open Space Management Plan because of the need for these habitat types, and the visibility of the planting locations within the residential area. A subsequent effort will engage the community in the restoration of the Open Space. 4. Our major partner is the City of Albany Parks Department. They will contribute in-kind site maintenance and management, and participate in advisory discussions and planning. Other partners include BPA in-kind labor and an OSWB grant.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous review team comments are address in the application, and the applicant has improved the project with each submission.
- The proposed project builds on a previous technical assistance investment.
- Restoration activities will improve upland, floodplain, and riparian habitats, which will provide water quality benefits by addressing water temperature concerns and habitat benefits to ESA-listed fish.
- The project actively engages partners, including the neighborhood association and City of Albany.

Concerns

- The project has limited benefit for the investment and only addresses approximately 26% of a 200-acre property. It is expected this effort will be a multi-phased project in order to achieve expected ecological benefits of the proposed restoration, which will result in an overall high cost for this

watershed benefit.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project provides opportunity for social benefits by offering outreach that engages the Albany community in watershed restoration as the population grows. This project also provides a green space example in which local residents are actively engaged in habitat issues and are committed to seeing work completed. While the project is located in a priority confluence area for the Calapooia River, the high overall cost expected for achieving watershed benefits in the long-term limits the cost-benefit of this investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

14 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$176,096

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3033-16071

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Dragonfly Ranch Meadow, Wetland, Oak Savanna and Oak Woodland Restoration Project

Applicant: South Santiam WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: \$159,904

Total Cost: \$277,626

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Dragonfly Ranch is ~5 miles NE of Lebanon on One Horse Slough (HUC #17090006080), a tributary to the South Santiam River and an identified ODFW conservation opportunity area (COA 083). This unique 200 acre property contains mixed woodland, oak savanna, riparian forest, meadows, springs, seasonal and permanent streams, and several perennial ponds. Willamette Valley Oregon white oak savanna and wet prairie now compose <1% of their historical range with the remaining habitats being critically important. Previous agricultural practices like overgrazing, ditching and tilling have impacted the property. Conifer encroachment is heavy in the remaining woodlands, with English hawthorn and Armenian blackberry invading the oak savanna. The wet meadow has been ditched, planted to pasture grass and is threatened with invasive plants. However, there is ample opportunity to promote ecological uplift on the property. Large legacy oaks exist throughout the property, while the meadow contains remnant native prairie plants. The landowners are strongly committed to restoration and are hands on project participants. Western pond turtles, wood ducks, beavers, red legged frogs and invertebrates, such as dragonflies and Lepidoptera species reside on site. We propose to clear 25 acres of hawthorn and blackberry with chemical and mechanical treatments; pile burn 17 acres of hawthorn; seed the burn pile areas with native seed and increase forb diversity with plug/bulb plantings; restore historical drainage patterns through ditch plugging and berm removal; install up to 22 turtle basking structures and expand nesting habitat; install four vegetation plots to measure meadow enhancement techniques; and supplement 61 acres of site prep, conservation cover and plant establishment activities in the EQIP oak woodland/savanna thin areas. Project partners include landowners Sandre and Dan Nelson, USFWS Partners Program, ODFW and NRCS.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project promotes state priorities for ODFW.
- The project approach is a comprehensive ridgetop to river bottom approach to restore severely degraded conditions from previous land uses.
- Proposed actions are clearly documented in the application and maps and include site-specific upslope and downslope restoration activities.
- The landowners are committed to long-term stewardship of the property, which is demonstrated by work already completed on the site.

- Restoration activities will benefit multiple species, including Oregon chub, beaver, and western pond turtle.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by additional context information on future activities planned for adjacent properties that will improve watershed function. This information would help better evaluate the cost-benefit of the current proposed investment.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project provides a holistic approach to restore habitats for numerous priority fish and wildlife species while also building in opportunities for this work to be expanded into adjacent properties. The proposed restoration is also somewhat time sensitive because the invasive English Hawthorne on site is at a tipping point at which it needs to be knocked down before it becomes a monoculture plant community. The project scale, number of species that will benefit, rare habitats to be restored, and potential for expanded restoration results in a significant benefit for this investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$159,904

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$159,904

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3034-16076

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Mt. Pisgah Oak-Pine Woodland, Oak Savanna, & Wet Prairie Restoration: Ponderosa Unit

Applicant: Friends of Buford Park & Mt Pisgah

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$221,832

Total Cost: \$481,832

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Project is located on the eastern portion of Lane County's 2,218-acre Buford Park (aka Howard Buford Recreation Area) near confluence of Willamette's Coast and Middle Forks, and adjacent to The Nature Conservancy's 1305-acre "Willamette Confluence Preserve." Buford Park contains one of Oregon's largest expanse of publicly-owned "globally endangered" Willamette Valley upland prairie and oak savanna (OWEB priority habitats). Decades of fire suppression have contributed to encroachment by Douglas fir. In addition, invasive species (blackberry, Scot'sbroom, etc) have degraded native botanical diversity and wildlife habitat. This project will restore and enhance wetland prairie, upland prairie, oak savanna, and oak woodland habitats across the 110-acre "Ponderosa" Management Unit on Buford Park. Management actions will thin Douglas fir and exotic trees to achieve desired tree densities to: 1) restore rare oak-pine woodland on 11 acres; 2) restore wetland prairie on 3 acres; 3) restore upland prairie on 7 acres; 4) restore oak woodland on 34 acres; 5) restore oak savanna on 37 acres; 6) enhance conifer forest on 16 acres 7) manage invasive herbaceous and shrub species (blackberry, Scot's broom, etc.); 8) prepare a burn plan and implement an ecological burn; and 9) broadcast site-specific seed mixes of grasses and forbs in areas of invasive control and tree removal to increase botanical diversity, as well as forage and structure for wildlife. These actions are expected to benefit 17 at-risk species known to occur in the Mt. Pisgah area that depend on these prairie, oak savanna and oak woodland habitats, including the Western meadowlark and acorn woodpecker. Effectiveness monitoring is not planned. We will assess pre- and post-project native vegetation and document with photo-monitoring. OWEB funds will be used for salaries and wages, contracted services, mileage, supplies, grant administration.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project is well planned, builds on a draft management plan, and utilizes appropriate restoration methods.
- The site is a priority for oak and prairie dependent species.
- The project team has relevant experience with this type of restoration.
- The project is well-leveraged with match.

Concerns

- There is limited partner involvement in the project.
- Invasive false brome and shining geranium will remain on site and continue to limit plant diversity for the foreseeable future, which limits the cost-benefit of the proposed restoration investment.
- The application would be strengthened by additional information on project costs; for example, an explanation of staff roles in the project and how they directly relate to the success of the project.

Concluding Analysis

This project will send wood to multiple mills, which will develop unique and different ways to handle difficult-to-market trees and get them into the economy. There is some time sensitivity to the project to align it with a BPA line maintenance project. It is likely the proposed restoration will require a long-term investment of multiple grants over 15 years to achieve ecological objectives for the site. As a result of this, it is difficult to determine the cost-benefit of this whole project investment at one location in comparison to investing in multiple projects across the landscape that benefits the same habitat type.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

12 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$98,079

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3035-15933

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Milton Creek Technical Restoration Planning

Applicant: Scappoose Bay WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$50,961

Total Cost: \$67,941

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project is located in Milton Creek, a tributary to Scappoose Bay, the Multnomah Channel and the Lower Columbia River. Historically Milton Creek supported coho and chum salmon, steelhead and trout, but logging and residential management practices has significantly reduced the quality and quantity of instream and riparian natural habitats. The upper half of Milton Creek has low in-stream wood quantities with adjacent large tracks of commercial timber properties; these ecological conditions are being addressed with LWD implementation projects. The lower half of Milton Creek has a mix of poor instream and riparian conditions, plus disconnections for historical side-channels. There are numerous individual landowners along the creek. Addressing these lower ecological issues is the focus of this work. The project will use existing data to assess lower stream segments, identify and assign restoration actions, and prioritize locations and actions to produce implementation proposals that efficiently improve and increase salmon and other species' habitat. Results will be a minimum of four submitted implementation proposals, that when funded, will work within the watershed context to provide the highest ecological uplift at the most critical locations. Partners include CSWCD, ODFW, OSU Extension, and LCEP.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project area is a priority location for ESA-listed fish.
- The design approach is technically sound and straightforward.
- Some landowners have already shown interest in participating in watershed restoration.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by additional information on what is included in the design process and what the geodatabase will provide that is necessary to the proposed technical assistance.
- Some of the budget details were unclear, including match line items and whether \$16,000 is enough to secure 60% completion on four designs.

Concluding Analysis

This technical assistance will build on work recently completed to address fish passage barriers in Lower Milton Creek. Since Milton Creek is a priority for ESA-listed fish in the Scappoose Bay, this type of planning should be a priority because of the resulting benefits to these fish.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$50,961

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$50,961

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3036-15989

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Pudding River Turtle Mapping
Habitat Assessment - GIS Mapping and Landowner
Identification Project

Applicant: Pudding River WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$11,935

Total Cost: \$17,277

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project encompassing all low elevation floodplains of the Pudding River watershed will identify habitat and landowners willing to participate in turtle conservation on their properties. Most public land in the watershed has been surveyed for turtles, however much of the watershed is in private ownership. As state and federal agencies are increasingly interested in turtle conservation, understanding the current range of the species is critical. Both native freshwater turtle species, Western painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta bellii*) and Western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*) are identified as Strategy Species (sensitive) in the Oregon Conservation Strategy. Additionally, the pond turtle is federally listed as a species of concern. The lower 18 miles of the Pudding river were identified as a Priority Turtle Conservation Area by the Lower Willamette Turtle Working group. While survey efforts have been conducted opportunistically in the watershed, local, state and federal stakeholders need a thorough strategic strategy for identifying landowners willing to participate in turtle conservation on their property. This TA grant will map turtle habitat throughout the watershed to develop and prioritize a strategic plan for habitat enhancement and future monitoring in the watershed. Additionally, it will identify landowners for future outreach and restoration planning. Deliverables of this grant are a map of habitat, a list of landowners, and a GIS model that other agencies can use to identify habitat in their area. Current partners: Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation district, Marion Soil and Water Conservation District, ODFW and the Lower Willamette Turtle Working Group.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Western pond turtle are a high conservation priority and identifying potential locations to enhance turtle habitat could have high ecological value.
- This technical assistance offers an approach to connect with landowners in the Willamette Valley where there is currently limited watershed restoration occurring.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by additional information on how technical assistance products will lead to priority habitat restoration for turtles.

- By focusing on a single species, this technical assistance project could miss opportunities for benefiting other species with similar life-cycles, such as the red legged frog.
- It is unclear whether the applicant has relevant experience and/or a track record with this type of work to determine likelihood for this project to succeed.
- This project would be strengthened by active engagement with ODFW and the Turtle Working Group as partners.

Concluding Analysis

Building strategies to improve habitat for turtles may be something agricultural landowners are interested in partnering with the applicant to address. However, the opportunities may be limited given the high value of farmlands, which limits the extent to which landowners can reduce agricultural grounds for turtle habitat. This could limit the potential cost-effectiveness of the proposed project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3037-16005

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Gate Creek Enhancement Project Development

Applicant: McKenzie Watershed Alliance

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$15,180

Total Cost: \$48,762

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed technical assistance project will occur on Gate Creek, a tributary to the McKenzie River, located to the northeast of the unincorporated town of Vida at river mile 41. Ownership within the sub-watershed is a mix of public forestland and private working forests in the upper reaches and private residential along the lower main stem. Gate Creek provides habitat for a range of native fish including spring Chinook salmon, rainbow trout, cutthroat trout and Pacific lamprey. A variety of current and legacy land management practices including timber harvest, road building, stream cleaning and residential development have altered stream habitat through the removal of large wood from channels and floodplains, and harvest of riparian trees. The lack of large wood within stream channels and the floodplain has altered natural processes and impacted habitat for native fish. Limiting factors for salmonid species include lack of spawning gravel, pools, complex cover and off-channel habitat. The proposed Gate Creek Enhancement Project Development (Project) will work with two primary landowners, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Weyerhaeuser Company (WY) to identify and develop aquatic enhancement projects in Gate Creek and one primary tributary, the North Fork Gate Creek. Additional partners include the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the McKenzie Watershed Alliance (MWA). The Project will identify three restoration alternatives, complete a final design and associated report for the preferred alternative, develop a draft referral for proposal, and develop project material source(s).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The resulting technical assistance product will address watershed limiting factors identified in the Upper Willamette Conservation Plan for Chinook and steelhead and the Oregon Conservation Strategy.
- Restoration in the McKenzie watershed has one of the best cost-benefit ratios because it is a relatively pristine watershed. Projects on tributaries, like the one proposed in this application, will benefit the watershed by building on pristine habitat in close proximity to the proposed project site.
- The project team has relevant experience.
- The project is reasonably priced, and cost-effective.
- Partner project support is demonstrated by letters of support and match.

Concerns

- The proposed large wood structures emphasize low risk over best value to habitat; however, it is recognized that this also balances landowner concerns related to instream large wood structure placement.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed technical assistance is timely while there is synergy with BLM and Weyerhaeuser being actively committed to participate in watershed restoration. The proposed technical assistance is likely necessary to successfully move this effort to restoration project implementation. Given this partner and landowner involvement, this proposed project is a cost-effective investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$15,180

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$15,180

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3038-16007

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Scotts Mills Dam Assessment and Alternatives Analysis

Applicant: Pudding River WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Marion

OWEB Request: \$33,458

Total Cost: \$41,823

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Scotts Mills dam is located on Butte Creek, an eastside tributary of the Pudding River within the Molalla-Pudding River subbasin, an eastside drainage to the middle Willamette River. Butte Creek's clear, cold, spring-fed headwaters originate in the Cascade Range in the Santiam State Forest High Lakes Recreation Area, and its confluence with the Pudding River is in the intensive agricultural area of the Willamette Valley lowlands near the community of Hubbard (Map 1). Butte Creek is within the habitat range of both Upper Willamette River Chinook salmon and Upper Willamette River steelhead (Map 2). This project will evaluate the alternatives that will alleviate the anadromous fish passage delay due to the broken dam situated on top of a cascading basalt bedrock waterfall. During the late 1950s, a fishway was constructed while the dam was operated by Portland General Electric, but due to the breach in broken cement dam, it has lost much of its functionality, except during times of very high flow. This technical assistance project is needed to provide information to Marion County and the City of Scotts Mill. The informed community will be better able to make decisions regarding the fate of the dam. The funding requested in this proposal will pay for a hydrologist/engineer, project management and mileage to the site. The initial partners for this project are the Pudding River Watershed Council, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. As a result of this project, additional partnerships will be developed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project is of interest to the community and has ODFW involvement.
- Technical assistance will be provided by a consultant well known in dam removal projects statewide.

Concerns

- Since habitat quality above the dam is unclear, it is difficult to determine the cost benefit of this project. The application photos show a stream channel scoured down to bedrock, which is not high quality habitat.
- The consultant costs seem high. The application would be strengthened by additional information on this cost.

- It is unclear whether one of the potential options under consideration is “no action,” which would result in the dam remaining in place. If “no action” became the chosen option, this technical assistance would have no cost-benefit.
- It is unclear whether the county is actively involved in the project as landowner of the property with the dam. The application would be strengthened by a letter of support from the county.

Concluding Analysis

A dam removal project can be significantly effective in restoring watershed process and function; however, it can also be controversial since various stakeholders have different preferences for addressing a dam, ranging from retaining the dam to removing the dam. It is unclear whether this technical assistance project is likely to succeed given the uncertainty of the roles of key stakeholders in this project, including the county, city, community members, regulatory agencies, and more. The applicant may consider a stakeholder engagement application first to work with these stakeholders associated with this dam to secure initial support for removal options over “no action.”

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3039-16008

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Abiqua Creek, Salmon and Trout Side-Channel Habitat Enhancement, Large Wood Placement, Design,

Applicant: Pudding River WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Marion

OWEB Request: \$24,526

Total Cost: \$38,814

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The area of interest for this instream and side-channel salmon and trout habitat enhancement project is located on Abiqua Creek within the Molalla-Pudding River sub-basin, an eastside drainage to the middle Willamette River and is entirely contained within Marion County (Figure 1). Abiqua Creek is one of five major tributaries to the Pudding River. A population of ESA-listed Upper Willamette steelhead trout are present within the Abiqua sub-basin. There is historic evidence of a viable Chinook salmon population (Photo 1). The physical habitat characteristics; cold, clear, spring fed headwaters, if enhanced could, also, support Upper Willamette Chinook salmon. This project location is at the margin between the Willamette Valley floor and the foothills of the Western Cascades. Project assessment activities will occur on three private properties in the lower and middle Abiqua Creek watersheds. The small towns, Silverton and Mount Angel are the largest nearby municipalities. The region is well-known in Oregon for Silver Falls State Park, an outstanding natural area. Abiqua Falls is the upstream limit to the area of interest. The ecological concern addressed in this project is habitat degradation due to the loss of large conifers in the riparian corridor along Abiqua Creek (Photo 3). Without these large trees contributing structural woody debris, physical habitat complexity is impaired and side channel habitat reduced (Photo 4). Defining the scope, identifying the specific project site locations, and creating designs of large wood structures for the purpose of implementation of restoration activities are the expected deliverables from this technical assistance proposal. Project partners include Weyerhaeuser, the Abbey Foundation, Robert and Melinda Qualey, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Pudding River Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Abiqua Creek is a 303(d) listed stream and ODFW priority area that provides important transition habitat for ESA-listed fish between the Cascades and the valley bottom.
- The proposed technical assistance will provide watershed restoration project designs that can move into permitting and implementation project phases.
- This project is supported by ODFW and landowners.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by additional detail on project goals and objectives, number of designs expected to be produced, and the expected path to restoration implementation.
- The budget would be strengthened by additional break down of consultant costs instead of the lump sum provided.

Concluding Analysis

This technical assistance project supports local watershed priorities for recovery of ESA-listed fish and water quality improvements. The project is located in an area with potential for significantly benefiting steelhead and coho in the Pudding basin; therefore, it is a high priority for stream restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$24,526

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$24,526

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3040-16044

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Elijah Bristow State Park Floodplain Restoration Design

Applicant: Middle Fork Willamette WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$168,051

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The 664-acre project area is within Elijah Bristow State Park (EBSP) at the confluence of the Middle Fork Willamette River with Lost Creek, below Dexter Dam, and between the Lane County towns of Jasper and Lowell. Historically, a dynamic floodplain existed with multiple, braided channels and sloughs, ephemeral gravel bars and islands, and extensive cottonwood gallery forests. Due to its location below three large dams that have modified flows and altered the natural sediment regime, the dynamism of this floodplain has been lost. Activities such as gravel mining and building berms have also led to a more static environment. Currently, braided channels are no longer dynamic, limited bare ground/gravel bars exist, and side channels and sloughs are filling in with vegetation and sediment due lack of disturbance. Trails and roads within EBSP and the FEMA floodplain provide additional design constraints. Due to the hydrologic, sediment and infrastructure constraints, we seek funding for technical assistance in applying a process-based, interdisciplinary, multi-species approach to floodplain restoration design. MFWWC will retain a contractor experienced in process-based floodplain restoration to provide capacity and expertise in leading the completion of three major deliverables: Feasibility Analysis, Modeling and Alternatives Analysis, and Conceptual Design. Additionally, MFWWC will convene and engage a technical team consisting of experienced professionals from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Forest Service to advise the contractor, review the design, and, ultimately, plan its implementation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Future restoration will benefit multiple fish and wildlife species, including Oregon chub and western pond turtle.
- Oregon Parks as landowner is willing to consider all options for restoration, including adjusting trails and infrastructure, to allow the river to access its floodplain.
- The project cost-benefit is potentially favorable because this site is a large scale area.
- The applicant provided detailed explanation for consultant costs.
- The application demonstrates a carefully thought out project.
- The proposed project is supported by and leverages a strong technical team with relevant experience to think through the design process.

- The applicant recognizes risks associated with the restoration design approach, and demonstrates these risks are worth exploring to gain progress in this type of impacted stream system.

Concerns

- The project site has significant constraints and degradation in areas below the dams, which may limit options for restoration in the mainstem.

Concluding Analysis

The potential benefits are high for this site because the Army Corps has agreed to prioritize ESA-listed fish and consider environmental flows implementation as an option. The site provides opportunity to be highly visible to the public and serve as an example of restoration strategies for areas between headwaters and downstream zones. The project is worth exploring and has a favorable potential cost-benefit because it has all the pieces for success including location, timing, and participants.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3041-16048

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Lower Long Tom Historic Channel Reconnection Design

Applicant: Long Tom WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Benton

OWEB Request: \$47,113

Total Cost: \$59,113

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project is located at river mile 6.5 on the Long Tom River in Benton County, in the town of Monroe. The lower Long Tom River from Fern Ridge Dam downstream was channelized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reduce flooding in 1943, reducing total channel length from 36.5 to 23.6 miles. The banks of the channelized river were bermed to keep the river in its banks. These actions reduced the amount of complex off-channel habitat available for native fish and wildlife and reduced floodplain connectivity. The proposed project would develop designs and acquire all required regulatory permits to reconnect 0.23 miles of off-channel habitat and 6.5 acres of mature floodplain forest to the mainstem Long Tom River. The proposed project follows up a successful first phase of community engagement and project development funded by OWEB and a private donor. The first phase of the project helped build community support for improving fish passage on the lower Long Tom River and identified potential floodplain and channel reconnection projects. Project partners include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Monroe School District #1J, a private landowner, and a steering committee made up of stakeholders and community leaders.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application clearly describes a complex project.
- The proposed project is one of the highest priorities for the Long Tom watershed.
- The project context is clearly described by demonstrating the project connections with larger plans for the watershed, including plans by the Army Corps to reconnect the Long Tom with its floodplain.
- The applicant has relevant experience and a proven track record with similar community engagement activities for restoration.

Concerns

- A considerable amount of money will be spent on the consultant to model only 6.5 acres of restoration; however, it may not be avoidable due to the project's proximity to school and community infrastructure. Also, this information is needed for public outreach project elements.

Concluding Analysis

The potential for future dike removal near existing infrastructure holds significant value as a demonstration project. The applicant has completed extensive work to gain momentum and public support for floodplain restoration and the proposed technical assistance will continue this momentum with this first project design product. This first project also needs to be thoughtfully and carefully executed. Therefore, the proposed project makes sense for gaining the necessary social capital for a successful dike removal restoration project. As a result, this project has significant cost benefit potential for the investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$47,113

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$47,113

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3042-16058

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Resubmit - NCUWC 10-Year Restoration Action Plan

Applicant: North Clackamas Urban Watershed Council

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$37,794

Total Cost: \$48,468

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This proposal is a resubmit for the North Clackamas Urban Watersheds Council's (NCUWC) 10-Year Restoration Action Plan. Not only will the Plan focus on establishing opportunities for fish recovery in the prominent Kellogg/Mt. Scott watershed, but it will allow NCUWC to identify priorities across the four tributaries which drain into the Willamette River, and the Lower Willamette River itself, in Clackamas County between the Clackamas River and Johnson Creek. NCUWC's service area provides rearing habitat and limited migrating and spawning habitat for threatened and endangered salmonids and other priority species including: steelhead, coho, chinook, pacific lamprey, and cutthroat trout. Limiting factors include impaired upstream passage, excessive fine sediment, degraded physical habitat, and impaired water quality. NCUWC currently does not have a framework for the prioritization of location and type of projects to address these limiting factors. Therefore, NCUWC lacks a compass to ensure its efforts are hitting strategic targets. NCUWC proposes to hire a consultant to provide the needed additional capacity and compliment organizational assets to create the Plan. The Plan will build off past assessments and monitoring. Project prioritization will be assessed by effects on limiting factors, intrinsic potential of waterways, opportunities for funding, and long-term restoration of watershed function. The Plan will identify priority reaches and projects. These potential projects will then be used to guide future designs and implementation. The Plan will also help NCUWC assess the strategic value of, and adjust, existing activities. Partners include ODFW, OLWS, WES, NCPRD, CSWCD, and ODEQ.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This is a well-written and thorough application that provides extensive detail on data management, how information will be used, and a plan for restoration implementation.
- The applicant has staff with skills that can manage the proposed work.
- This technical assistance builds on growing momentum for the applicant, and will provide an action plan product that will lead to strategic watershed restoration projects on the ground.
- The project area contains a number of small tributaries with confluences to the Willamette that provide fish spawning habitat and cooler refugia waters for fish moving up and down the Willamette River. The potential for significant ecological uplift in these tributaries results in a meaningful cost-benefit for the investment.

Concerns

- One of the major tributaries for the project area has a significant partial fish passage barrier at the confluence with the Willamette that is unlikely to be addressed in the near term, which limits the cost-benefit of potential restoration efforts upstream.
- The application would be strengthened by additional partner support.
- The applicant did not respond to previous evaluation comments.

Concluding Analysis

Even though watershed restoration in urban areas often have limited cost benefit for investments because projects tend to have a high cost on a small footprint, there is value in investing in these watersheds since water and fish must move through urban areas. Watershed improvements in urban areas to address toxics and water temperature will support migrating ESA-listed fish as they move towards the ocean. An action plan will assist the applicant in effectively securing funds and leveraging local resources for future project implementation. Also, the proposed technical assistance will provide social value by working with watershed residents to recruit their participation in a restoration strategy.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$37,794

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3043-16064

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Kelly Creek Dam Removal
Feasibility

Applicant: Sandy River Basin WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Multnomah

OWEB Request: \$50,380

Total Cost: \$128,114

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project will investigate the ecological, economic and social feasibility of removing the Kelly Creek dam, which blocks a Sandy River basin tributary on the Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC) campus. In a deep ravine, Kelly Creek bisects the 212-acre campus. When the campus was built in the 1960's, the challenge of connecting the campus was solved by building a 300-foot long, 66-foot high dam across the ravine and using the crest of the dam as a path for pedestrians and maintenance vehicles. This imposing dam impounds a small, five-acre pond, with the water surface far below the dam crest. During the summer, the pond significantly warms the water that flows down Kelly Creek to Beaver Creek, which then joins the Sandy River. The Sandy River, a lower Columbia tributary, is the focus of a longstanding restoration effort, including two regionally prominent dam removals in 2007-8. Fourteen federal, state and local agencies, along with non-profits, are actively working on salmon restoration on the main stem Sandy and its tributaries. Federally listed species involved include coho, winter steelhead, spring and fall chinook and eulachon (smelt). Beaver Creek is important to the salmon restoration efforts both as spawning and rearing habitat for juvenile coho, chinook and steelhead. Surveys show that up to nine percent of the Sandy's juvenile coho, as well as juvenile chinook and steelhead, use Beaver Creek for rearing. In addition, several other native fish species, including cutthroat and rainbow trout, use Beaver Creek. SRBWC, MHCC, Gresham, EMSWCD, and Metro are collaborating on a broad clean water retrofit initiative to improve campus habitat and water quality. MHCC adopted a 5-year Salmon Safe certification plan for improvements, including dam removal feasibility by 2018. Proposed actions will assess strategies and costs to remove the dam, deal with sediment, replace the dam's bridge function, and restore habitat and water quality in Kelly Creek.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This technical assistance builds on growing momentum among partners and community members, and offers a public outreach opportunity for watershed restoration because the dam is located on a community college campus.
- The proposed dam removal project builds on other efforts in the sub-basin that will benefit watershed health, including stormwater improvements on the community college campus, the college working towards salmon safe certification, and culvert replacements that will address fish passage issues upstream and downstream of the campus.
- The project is located in a sub-basin that is a major producer of coho and also provides habitat to steelhead.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by additional information on ODFW involvement in the project and the quality of stream habitat upstream of the dam.
- The expense related to the salmon safe technical team does not seem directly related to the success of the technical assistance product related to dam removal.

Concluding Analysis

Temperature data from upstream and downstream of the five-acre pond behind the dam potentially to be removed shows a 4 degree Celsius increase between the pond inlet to the outlet. This indicates that dam removal could significantly improve water temperature for ESA-listed fish. While there is a chance the cost-benefit of this technical assistance project could be limited if dam removal is determined not to be feasible, information provided by the applicant strongly indicates dam removal is the likely direction of the final restoration project

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced with Conditions

Review Team Priority

5 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$44,880

Review Team Conditions

Fund Reduced, remove \$5,500 (includes line item plus associated grant administration) related to salmon safe technical team.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund Reduced with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$44,880

Staff Conditions

Fund Reduced, remove \$5,500 (includes line item plus associated grant administration) related to salmon safe technical team.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3044-16003

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Oregon Spotted Frog Monitoring Project

Applicant: McKenzie Watershed Alliance

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$55,152

Total Cost: \$92,306

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed Oregon Spotted Frog Monitoring Project (Project) will provide the first data and analysis of the species population response to habitat alteration caused by beaver in the Northwest, and perhaps the first before-after and treatment-control design for amphibians and beaver in the USA. Understanding these dynamics will inform the planning, management and expectations around wildlife responses to natural beaver expansions and beaver translocations/reintroductions restoration approaches throughout the range of Oregon Spotted Frog (OSF). Monitoring will: (1) determine status of OSF in two populations in Mink Lake basin in the Three Sisters Wilderness using mark-recapture sampling; (2) document changes in habitat associated with beaver establishment; (3) evaluate responses of OSF to beaver establishment in the study area; and (4) characterize responses of introduced game fish to beaver in these sites. The Project will benefit OSF management and restoration planning throughout the state, and increase public awareness and understanding of species conservation. Project partners include the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the McKenzie Watershed Alliance (MWA). The proposed Oregon Spotted Frog Monitoring Project (Project) will provide the first data and analysis of the species population response to habitat alteration caused by beaver in the Northwest, and perhaps the first before-after and treatment-control design for amphibians and beaver in the USA. Understanding these dynamics will inform the planning, management and expectations around wildlife responses to natural beaver expansions and beaver translocations/reintroductions restoration approaches throughout the range of Oregon Spotted Frog (OSF). Monitoring will: (1) determine status of OSF in two populations in Mink Lake basin in the Three Sisters Wilderness using mark-recapture sampling; (2) document changes in habitat associated with beaver establishment; (3) evaluate responses of OSF to beaver establishment in the study area; and (4) characterize responses of introduced game fish to beaver in these sites. The Project will benefit OSF management and restoration planning throughout the state, and increase public awareness and understanding of species conservation. Project partners include the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the McKenzie Watershed Alliance (MWA).

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The project offers an opportunity to build on the existing data set for an important species that has

limited information.

- The activities proposed in the application will help USFS meet some of their monitoring objectives in this area for OSF.
- The partners that are included in this application are highly qualified and have been monitoring in this area for some time.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The information resulting from this project may not be exportable to other areas to determine what will happen to OSF if beaver are reintroduced.
- It will be challenging to determine what effects the introduced fish have on OSF compared to beaver habitat responses.
- It was unclear whether this funding was needed to wrap up the monitoring effort, or if there is value in adding another year of data.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High-14%, Medium-29%, Low-57%

Certainty of Success

High-14%, Medium-57%, Low-29%

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- These monitoring efforts benefit a species listed as threatened on the Endangered Species Act by providing information to support management and species recovery planning.
- The proposed monitoring takes advantage of existing data and builds on a natural experiment that could have broader applications in the state.
- The project team has relevant experience with Oregon spotted frog.
- Previous review team comments are addressed in the application
- The monitoring protocols are technically sound.
- Project partner support is demonstrated by match.

Concerns

- No major concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant addressed previous Regional Review Team and Oregon Plan Monitoring Team concerns regarding potential impacts to data that could result from beaver moving into the site. Since there is only one year of monitoring remaining, this will unlikely affect the monitoring results; and if it were to occur, the project model can address it. The resulting monitoring data will provide information on a threatened species that has little information available to support management decisions affecting their recovery. Data will also be collected on a rare habitat type that supports this species, and findings will be exportable to other Oregon spotted frog sites in the state.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$55,152

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$55,152

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3045-16036

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Wild Winter Steelhead - Upper Calapooia Monitoring

Applicant: Calapooia WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: \$95,576

Total Cost: \$124,801

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project will occur on the Upper Calapooia River, between the Holley Bridge (USGS RM 45.5) and the perceived end of anadromy for salmonids (USGS RM 72.9). Historically the Calapooia River marked the upper end of winter steelhead distribution in the Willamette Basin, and a spawning tributary for spring chinook. These are both DPS/ESU listed species, and little is known about their distribution and life history in the Calapooia River. A Rapid Bioassessment was completed in 2015 as well as winter steelhead redd survey in 2017 to try and establish baseline data including spawning gravel abundance/seeding availability, adult escapement, a foundation for long term trend analysis, as well as identify anchor habitats. The survey was also intended to inform ODFW with vital information regarding the possibility of jump-start seeding the Calapooia with Chinook, as well as guide the Calapooia WC's restoration approach in this vital area. The 2017 return of Winter steelhead over the Willamette Falls (pinch point for all anadromy in the Willamette Valley) was the lowest on record, and the CWC and partners do not feel a proper baseline was established. The CWC proposes to complete 2 years of STW redd Surveys to create a baseline of adult escapement from 2 different cohorts, as well as collect summer water temperature data through the deployment of Hobo temperature loggers. This data can be used to create a reach wide restoration plan that will focus CWC restoration efforts in areas where they will be the most efficient and effective. Partners include ODFW, Weyerhaeuser, US Forest Service, Miners Association, and private residents. The project will occur on the Upper Calapooia River, between the Holley Bridge (USGS RM 45.5) and the perceived end of anadromy for salmonids (USGS RM 72.9). Historically the Calapooia River marked the upper end of winter steelhead distribution in the Willamette Basin, and a spawning tributary for spring chinook. These are both DPS/ESU listed species, and little is known about their distribution and life history in the Calapooia River. A Rapid Bioassessment was completed in 2015 as well as winter steelhead redd survey in 2017 to try and establish baseline data including spawning gravel abundance/seeding availability, adult escapement, a foundation for long term trend analysis, as well as identify anchor habitats. The survey was also intended to inform ODFW with vital information regarding the possibility of jump-start seeding the Calapooia with Chinook, as well as guide the Calapooia WC's restoration approach in this vital area. The 2017 return of Winter steelhead over the Willamette Falls (pinch point for all anadromy in the Willamette Valley) was the lowest on record, and the CWC and partners do not feel a proper baseline was established. The CWC proposes to complete 2 years of STW redd Surveys to create a baseline of adult escapement from 2 different cohorts, as well as collect summer water temperature data through the deployment of Hobo temperature loggers.

This data can be used to create a reach wide restoration plan that will focus CWC restoration efforts in areas where they will be the most efficient and effective. Partners include ODFW, Weyerhaeuser, US Forest Service, Miners Association, and private residents.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application will build on monitoring data from a previously funded monitoring project (i.e., rapid bio-assessment [RBA]) and an existing grant that will result in a restoration plan.
- The information that is being proposed to be collected for winter steelhead is filling a data gap.
- There is an existing technical committee of local stakeholders to help the applicant apply the data in a meaningful way.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The applicant may get more value if they would have increased their temperature monitoring sites to build off of the past RBA information. They could refine their monitoring network over time to fewer sites after they get a good idea of what the temperature conditions are.
- It was unclear what the applicant was trying to learn from the temperature monitoring data. Are they looking for cold water refugia, long term status or trends, or are they looking for data to build a model?
- The value of the monitoring project was unclear given that this basin is a somewhat lower priority for fish recovery efforts for steelhead.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High-67%, Medium-33%, Low-0%

Certainty of Success

High-17%, Medium-83%, Low-0%

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This monitoring builds on and continues previous efforts that were not completed because poor fish returns prevented data collection.
- The Calapooia watershed is an important basin for understanding the status of steelhead populations in the Willamette basin. Furthermore, with the previous dam removal projects on the Calapooia River, there is an opportunity for this monitoring data to help better understand the effects of dam removal on fish runs.

- Concerns identified by the Oregon Plan Monitoring Team related to the temperature data collection were addressed by the applicant.
- This monitoring project will have connectivity to future restoration work planned on USFS lands in the upper watershed.

Concerns

- No major concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

Even though the Calapooia watershed is not at the same scale as a basin such as the Santiam, it is an important area for steelhead recovery due to the significant number of fish returning to the Calapooia basin. ODFW considers the Calapooia River as a wild river stronghold; genetic analysis of Calapooia native winter steelhead indicates this fish stock is some of the most genetically pure Upper Willamette stocks with minimal contamination from hatchery summer steelhead runs. Since there are no other resources for monitoring steelhead in the project area, similar to investments in the Lower Columbia Recovery area, this proposed monitoring will provide a needed snapshot of steelhead populations over two years.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$95,576

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$95,576

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3046-15943

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: South Santiam & North Santiam
Focus Project Development

Applicant: South Santiam WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: \$51,863

Total Cost: \$70,853

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The South Santiam and North Santiam Watershed Councils (Councils) have actively recruited landowners since 2009 through a unique Regional Landowner Recruitment for Restoration Program in order to restore priority tributaries. The Councils have completed assessments, invasive weed surveys and action plans to guide strategic on-the ground activities such as weed control, riparian revegetation, livestock exclusion fencing and large wood placements. The result of this work is Council-driven ongoing restoration with over 60 landowners on 400 riparian acres buffering 20 miles of stream in the two watersheds. To continue building on previous successes the Councils seek to develop a strategic recruitment campaign with assistance from their regional partners by offering 1) one-on-one individual conservation planning consultations and 2) two three-part land conservation training workshops. The Councils will work with the landowners already enrolled in their restoration program to reach out to neighbors in the community and invite them to participate in the trainings. Over the course of the trainings, landowners will learn to inventory natural resources on their property, identify resource issues, learn about programs available to assist them with those issues and with Council guidance take the next step of conservation implementation. The goal will be to assist with the development of land management plans for a minimum of 5 landowners in the South Santiam and 5 in the North Santiam and 2 in the Upper Mill Creek basin. Through the consultations and trainings, the Councils' goal will be to develop and implement a minimum of 7 restoration projects over 2 years. Project partners include staff from Marion & Linn SWCD, OSU Extension and private landowners. Grant funds will be used for staff time, contracted services, mileage and training supplies and materials.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on previous work and continues a landowner recruitment campaign to increase participation in voluntary watershed restoration.
- The proposed engagement activities are straightforward and are a technically sound approach that previously had proven success for the applicant.
- Landowner recruitment will target priority areas in the basins that are model watersheds and/or a priority for fish and water quality. As a result, future watershed restoration recruited from this stakeholder engagement project will increase habitat connectivity in these basins.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by letters of support from partnering state agencies.

Concluding Analysis

This proposed stakeholder engagement builds on previous momentum and will utilize existing landowners participating in voluntary watershed restoration to reach out to other landowners in their community to join these restoration efforts. There is significant likelihood for success in this project resulting in watershed restoration projects in priority locations. The potential for expanded connectivity with adjacent habitat restoration projects improves the cost-benefit of these efforts.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$51,863

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$51,863

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3047-15980

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Sandy River Delta Stakeholder
Engagement Project

Applicant: Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Multnomah

OWEB Request: \$25,743

Total Cost: \$37,872

This application was determined to be ineligible prior to review.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3048-16000

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Beaver Creek Fish Passage and Riparian Vegetation Restoration

Applicant: Sandy River Basin WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Multnomah

OWEB Request: \$22,875

Total Cost: \$69,655

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) This project will take place in the Beaver Creek watershed, the lowermost tributary to the Sandy River, in and near the Cities of Gresham and Troutdale, in Multnomah County.2) Two remaining culverts either completely or partially block fish passage on Beaver and Kelly Creeks, home to endangered salmonids. Temperatures in Beaver Creek exceed salmonid rearing standards much of the summer due in part to lack of riparian canopy. Both fish passage and temperature reduction will support recovery of ESA listed salmon in the watershed. The culvert replacement already completed on Beaver Creek at Stark St. was met with consternation from locals over the road closure; due in part to poor communication and lack of awareness that endangered salmon live in the Creek. This outcry has the potential to jeopardize the implementation of two other proposed culvert replacement projects in 2018 and 2019. Habitat in many riparian areas is compromised by invasive vegetation along Beaver Creek. This project will address weed removal and native plant establishment in key riparian areas and provide critical direct stakeholder engagement opportunities in the restoration of the watershed.3) Stakeholder engagement activities include site tours of fish passage sites (4 tours with a total of 50 participants each year), work parties to restore native vegetation in riparian and sensitive areas (4+ events with 25 participants each) and tabling and other outreach events in the community (10 events reaching 1000 stakeholders) with the outcome of securing community support and active involvement in implementing fish passage and riparian vegetation restoration projects.4) Project Partners include East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, Multnomah County, Metro, Mt. Hood Community College, Cities of Gresham and Troutdale, Job Corps, Gresham Chamber of Commerce, Gresham and Reynolds School Districts, and others.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is well written.
- The project builds on a dam removal technical assistance project application, and culvert projects that are fully-funded and underway for implementation.
- Stakeholder engagement will focus on recruiting landowners for riparian restoration and establishing community support for dam removal.

Concerns

- The total project cost seems high for the proposed products.
- Beaver Creek watershed is not the highest priority watershed in the Sandy Basin strategy at number 11. Given the basin size, limited fish numbers, and overall impact to the Sandy Basin, the proposed project will have limited cost-benefit for the investment.

Concluding Analysis

Beaver Creek is a salmon bearing stream supporting chinook rearing habitat and a significant percentage of Sandy Basin Coho populations. This creek is also listed on the 303(d) list for temperature. Given the momentum for watershed restoration in this urban-rural mixed sub-watershed and building interest among community members and partners to participate in watershed restoration, this project is timely.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$22,875

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3049-16072

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Stakeholder Engagement for a Healthy Clackamas Watershed

Applicant: Clackamas River Basin Council

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$36,773

Total Cost: \$85,533

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Stakeholder Engagement for a Healthy Clackamas Watershed will include residents of the lower Clackamas River from its confluence to RM24 & priority tributaries: Clear, Deep, & Eagle Creeks, all located in Clackamas County from Oregon City to Estacada & all communities between. Engaging people & their lands of this area are important for salmon recovery efforts & for improving and protecting the source of drinking water for over 300,000 -- 10% of Oregonians. The Clackamas River provides migration corridor & rearing habitat for ESA-listed Chinook & Coho salmon and steelhead. Because of extensive loss of historic habitats, studies identify the lower Clackamas River as important for habitat protection & restoration. Key limiting factors impacting fish populations in the lower river are channel stability, habitat diversity, sediment loads & water temperatures. TMDLs for the Clackamas River include temperature and bacteria. A suite of engagement programs are proposed: 1) enlisting streamside landowners in future riparian enhancements, 2) engaging students & properties in green infrastructure (GI) projects to limit the effects of stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces, 3) enrolling willing landowners for future habitat restoration projects for salmon recovery, & 4) encouraging volunteers in water quality stewardship through Stash the Trash & river clean up activities. Our engagement activities will build on momentum generated through our Shade Our Streams program where direct mailings, fact sheets, 1:1 meetings, workshops & tours enlisted >150 eligible & willing landowners for riparian enhancements & habitat restoration projects. In addition to these methods, GI projects at schools will engage students & parents via native plant volunteer events & promote oppty on private lands in parent newsletters & school website, signs, etc Project partners incl: Clackamas Co Parks, CC Offc of Sustainability, Clackamas River Water Providers, CSWCD, Metro, ODFW & WES.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is well-written and thoughtful with specific goals and objectives.
- The applicant has a proven track record for enlisting landowners in riparian projects.
- The proposed approaches for recruiting landowners is technically sound.
- The project has a reasonable cost.

Concerns

- Only one of the four objectives as described in the application appears eligible according to stakeholder engagement evaluation criteria. Only the riparian restoration landowner recruitment demonstrates clear connection to eligible future watershed restoration.

Concluding Analysis

The Clackamas basin is a priority for addressing ESA-fish recovery and the TMDL plan. Recruiting future landowners to participate in voluntary riparian restoration is timely in this basin that is experiencing rapid population growth; however, some project elements do not have a clear connection to resulting watershed restoration that will benefit fish or wildlife habitat, watershed function, and/or water quality. If this project is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to provide additional information on how elements such as the green infrastructure, student work, and Stash the Trash will lead to eligible restoration projects and are not primarily outreach opportunities.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

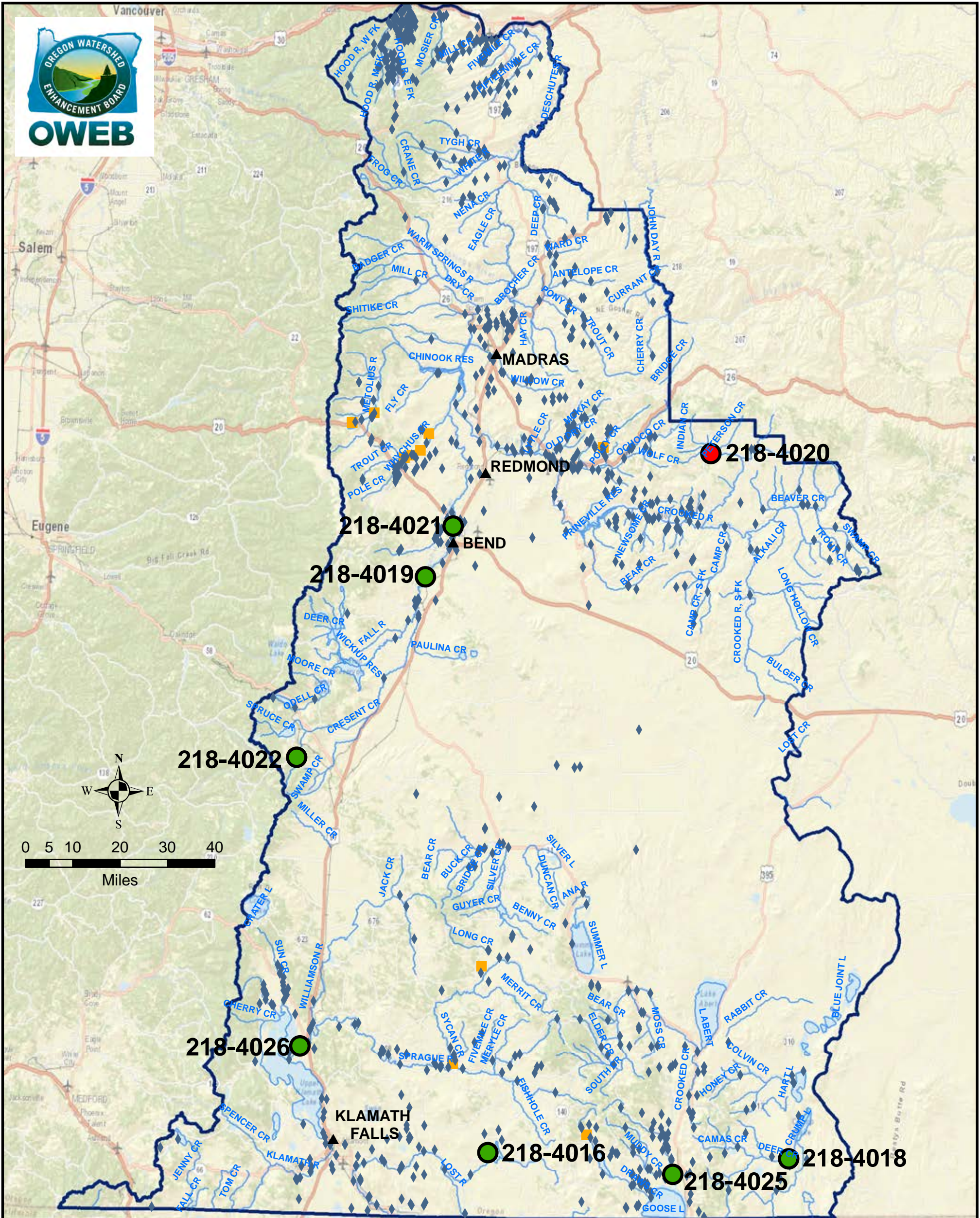
Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Central Oregon - Region 4 Fall 2017 Funding Recommendations



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 ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority:EPSG OWEB- PK Wills Fall 20180327

Fall 2017 Applications

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants - 1998-Spring 2017

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- ~ Streams
- ⬡ Region 1 Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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<http://oregon.gov/OWEB/>

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Region 4 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Region 4 - Central Oregon | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---------------------------|---------------|
| Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-4018 | Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council | Deep Creek- Town Diversion Fish Passage Project | This project will provide fish passage at an irrigation diversion specifically designed for Warner sucker and Redband trout for access to three miles of high quality spawning and rearing habitat on Deep Creek located near the town of Adel in the Warner Lakes Basin. | 393,030 | Lake |
| 218-4019 | Upper Deschutes Watershed Council | Ryan Ranch Riverbank Restoration Project | Riparian and floodplain habitat will be restored along the Upper Deschutes River through bank reshaping and native plant revegetation. Additionally, hydrologic connectivity will be restored to adjacent wetlands which is critical habitat for the Oregon spotted frog. | 61,500 | Deschutes |
| 218-4022 | Upper Deschutes Watershed Council | Big Marsh Restoration Project | This project will restore hydrologic function to Big Marsh located in the Upper Little Deschutes River by removing legacy berms, culverts, and roads while filling in relic ditches to restore wetland connectivity enhancing year round habitat for the Oregon spotted frog. | 68,500 | Klamath |
| 218-4016 | Klamath SWCD | Gerber Watershed Enhancement Project Fall 2017 | This landscape level approach to watershed restoration will employ forestry treatments on over 3,200 acres of private land by removing Juniper and thinning young Ponderosa pine to improve habitat and facilitate future wildfire. | 332,942 | Klamath |
| 218-4021 | Deschutes River Conservancy | Swalley Piping Project, Rogers Lateral | Roughly three miles of irrigation ditch will be piped just north of Bend in Swally's Irrigation District which will permanently conserve and protect 2.3 cfs instream to the Middle Deschutes River. | 645,957 | Deschutes |
| Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff | | | | 1,501,929 | |
| Restoration Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-4020 | Crooked River Watershed Council | Big Summit Prairie Restoration Phase 1 | This multi prong approach for restoration of the North Fork Crooked River on Big Summit Prairie will benefit fish and wildlife by employing livestock fencing, off site water developments, riparian plantings, roughened riffles, and providing fish passage at one irrigation diversion. | 391,951 | Crook |
| Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | 1,893,880 | |
| Restoration Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount Requested | County | |
| 218-4017 | DEE Irrigation District | Dee Irrigation District Water Conservation Project | 300,637 | Hood River | |

Region 4 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-4025 | Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council | Thomas Creek Fish Passage Amsbaugh Diversion | This technical assistance will result in construction ready designs to address passage for sucker and lamprey species at an irrigation diversion on Thomas Creek near the inlet to Goose Lake which will open up 32 miles of habitat. | 38,624 | Lake |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff | | | | 38,624 | |
| Technical Assistance Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | | Amount Recommended | County |
| None | | None | | | |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | 38,624 | |
| Technical Assistance Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | | Amount Requested | County |
| 218-4024 | Trout Unlimited Inc. | Oregon Spotted Frog and Invasive Bullfrogs: Assembling Baseline Data to Guide Restoration Decisions | | 75,000 | Klamath |

Region 4 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| None | | None | | | |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff | | | | 0 | |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount Recommended | County | |
| None | | None | | | |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT | | | | 0 | |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount Requested | County | |
| 218-4028 | Central Oregon Irrigation District | Rural Irrigation Conservation and Efficiency Outreach | 75,000 | Deschutes | |

Region 4 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-4026 | The Klamath Tribes | Real-Time, High-Frequency Estimates of Nutrient and Sediment Loads in the Williamson and Sprague River | Phosphorus and suspended sediment samples will be collected along with real-time turbidity data near the mouth of the Williamson and Sprague Rivers to develop an understanding of concentrations and loads of suspended sediment and phosphorus to Upper Klamath Lake. | 217,770 | Klamath |
| Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff | | | | 217,770 | |
| Monitoring Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | | Amount Recommended | County |
| None | | None | | | |
| Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT | | | | 217,770 | |
| Monitoring Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | | Amount Requested | County |
| 218-4027 | OSU Office of Sponsored Programs | Monitoring Beaver Dam Analogs for Restoration of the South Fork of the Crooked River | | 184,820 | Crook |
| Region 4 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award | | | | 1,758,323 | 16% |
| Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award | | | | 10,753,978 | |

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4016-15970

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Gerber Watershed Enhancement
Project Fall 2017

Applicant: Klamath SWCD

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$332,942

Total Cost: \$1,436,741

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Gerber Watershed Enhancement Project area encompasses the Gerber Watershed and additional portions of the Upper Lost River Watershed (HUC 10-1801020404, -05,-06) in Klamath County, Oregon. Over the past 100 years, fire suppression and livestock management have resulted in overstocked forests and juniper encroaching into areas historically dominated by perennial grasses and shrubs. These changes have impacted watershed health through altered nutrient and water cycling and availability, diminished ecosystem diversity, and increased vulnerability to disease, insects, wildfire, and competition. Woody biomass removal in overstocked/encroachment areas restores species diversity, improves stand resiliency, decreases wildfire potential, improves wildlife and range forage quality and quantity, and increases water yield. The Project will leverage more than two years of outreach and planning by the NRCS and ODF to reduce overstocked forests and western juniper density on 3,264 acres of private lands. This private lands work will complement more than 60,000 acres of juniper clearing and other forest thinning on public land in the region during the last 20 years (see Map 1). By increasing the connectivity of treated areas, management is more sustainable and effective. Corridors spanning ownership boundaries will enhance habitat available to sagebrush-steppe species, including the Interstate population of mule deer that can use this area year-round. This project represents collaborative efforts among Klamath SWCD, private landowners, conservation groups (Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Mule Deer Foundation), USDA NRCS, the Klamath Watershed Partnership, BLM, USFWS Partners Program, ODF, and others working toward a common vision of improved watershed health.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project presents a well-coordinated, landscape level restoration effort in the Gerber area watersheds.
- The project partners providing technical support are well qualified to do this work and these elements were intertwined nicely within the project application.
- The applicant addressed previous review team concerns by including a weed management plan and budget for portions of the treatment area.
- The project partners providing match were diverse and this match is secured.
- The work area for this project is located within a priority watershed for state and federal agencies involved in this type of work.

Concerns

- There was no forestry management described for road buffers in the project area. Wildlife poaching is a problem in the area, adding buffers along roads to discourage this behavior would be beneficial.
- Site specific plans for cutting units lacked details, as a result it is unclear what percentage of Pine and Juniper removal will be happening within specific units.
- While the addition of a weed management plan is helpful, it is unclear whether planned treatments and budget are enough given the scope and scale of the project. It was noted that a Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) is currently in the works for this geography that could help address this in the long term.
- It was a little unclear how OWEB dollars and EQIP dollars overlap and what the distinction will be for treatment on private lands.

Concluding Analysis

This project is a resubmittal for the third consecutive grant cycle. The project would employ forestry treatments on 3,264 acres and noxious weed mapping and treatment on 1,000 acres within the Gerber Watershed in Klamath County. The applicant did a good job at addressing and answering previous review team comments and questions. The landscape scale approach to this project really showcases the strong level of partnerships and leveraging of resources in the area. The project area is surrounded by previous forestry work, which this project should complement nicely. While the inclusion of a weed management plan in the application is helpful, it is unclear whether planned treatments are enough given the severity and scale of the problem and necessary long term maintenance and monitoring required for success. Without more details around future treatments, it is unclear how the project will be sustainable. The understanding provided by practitioners is its anticipated fire would maintain stand densities, and that this prescribed thinning and removal is setting up the landscape to better handle and move fire as it historically once did. In addition, with an unknown future fire pattern and public perception of fire on the landscape, projecting these is very hard to do. The project details a well described, watershed scale project incorporating a suite of diverse partnerships and match funding.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$332,942

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$332,942

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4017-16040

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Dee Irrigation District Water Conservation Project

Applicant: DEE Irrigation District

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Hood River

OWEB Request: \$300,637

Total Cost: \$3,171,365

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project will take place within the 840-acre Dee Irrigation District (DID), located between the West and East Fork of the Hood River in the upper west side of the Hood River Valley. The purposes of this project are to conserve water instream and eliminate sources of pollution to the west and east forks of the Hood River. DID's unpressurized, partially open distribution system is prone to leaks and breaks, and the system includes seven end spills, which result in DID diverting more water than is necessary from the West Fork Hood River. (An 'end spill' occurs when water not utilized for irrigation returns to the river, several miles downstream of the diversion, at the end of each distribution line.) The end spills also cause chemical (nutrients, sediment, bacteria, and pesticides) and thermal pollution to the West Fork and East Fork Hood River. Low flows in the West Fork Hood River are a limiting factor for threatened Chinook, steelhead, and coho populations. In addition, both the West Fork and East Fork have temperature TMDLs. Upgrading DID's distribution system to a pressurized pipeline will save an estimated 2 cfs that DID plans to protect through an "Agreement to not Divert". This will increase instream flows on approximately 6 miles of the West Fork Hood River and will eliminate chemical and thermal pollution of the West and East Fork Hood River from DID's distribution system. Project partners include Dee Irrigation District, Oregon Water Resources Department, and the Hood River Watershed Group.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project would complement previous water conservation efforts led by the District.
- The grant request to OWEB is cost effective for conserving 2 cfs instream.
- The project would meter all turnouts off the piped delivery line, which opens up opportunities for added on-farm efficiencies and water conservation.
- The project is aimed at restoring low summer stream flows that are critical for ESA listed salmonids utilizing the West Fork Hood River.
- The elimination of ends spills due to piping will remove overland flow into the river that potentially carries sediment and pollutants into the river.

Concerns

- While the "agreement to not divert" appears to be an innovated approach to conserving water instream, there was little detail as to how this agreement would be structured, enforced, and

monitored. A copy of the agreement would have been helpful to better understand how it would function.

- The proposed water quality benefits described are not quantifiable nor based on actual data.
- A large portion of the match is a pending grant, which seems critical for this project to be implemented. It is unclear whether this project could happen if the pending match did not come through.

Concluding Analysis

This project proposes to pipe the existing delivery canals within the Dee Irrigation District, which builds upon previous efforts that piped the main canal and permanently conserved 3 cfs instream. The project is supported by local conservation groups and has received a DEQ state revolving loan to assist in project implementation. However, it is unclear whether the project could still be viable if the OWRD grant is not awarded. The water quality benefits stated in the proposal are not quantifiable as no data exists to understand the benefit to water quality from capping the end spills. A site visit to the location of some of the end points suggest there is water quality benefits to capping these end spills as some of them travel through pastures and steep ravines potentially carrying pollutants and sediment into the river. The East Fork Hood River is a higher priority for fisheries conservation compared to the West Fork Hood River, which has higher summer base flows than the East Fork. The biggest concern with this project was the lack of permanently protecting water instream. The “agreement to not divert” has potential to offer these protections, but the application lacked details on how this agreement would be structured, enforced, and monitored. For this reason, the likelihood for this project to succeed in meeting its ecological objectives and providing a cost-benefit for the investment is unclear. That said, the applicant is encouraged to resubmit and address these key components: 1.) Provide template for “agreement to not divert” and/or details on how this agreement would be structured, enforced, and monitored and by whom, 2.) Describe plan in the event the OWRD grant does not come through, and 3.) Articulate water quality benefit, specifically what issues capping these end spills would resolve.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

None

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4018-16051

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Deep Creek - Town Diversion Fish Passage Project

Applicant: Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: \$393,030

Total Cost: \$593,030

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Deep Creek - Town Diversion project is located in the town of Adel in Lake County, Oregon. The Town Diversion, established prior to the 1921 Warner Lakes Adjudication Survey, provides irrigation and stock water to the Adel Water Improvement District (AWID). The concrete weir diverts water into the AWID diversion canal which then delivers water to down-valley AWID patrons. The diversion is also believed to be a complete fish passage barrier due to the structure's vertical height and high water velocities. Obstructed fish passage affects Warner sucker (Federally-threatened), Warner Lakes redband trout (Oregon-species of concern), and other native species inhabiting the Warner Basin. An alternatives analysis and 75% fish passage design have been completed for the Town Diversion. The proposed fish passage solution includes replacing the existing weir and installing a 250 ft-long rock ramp. The replacement weir will join the existing northern diversion weir crest. Replacing the existing weir is necessary as the weir is being undermined by erosion. The replacement weir will also form a defined vertical boundary which will be simpler for joining the rock ramp. The existing weir's sloping downstream apron would be problematic for joining the rock ramp due to shallow fill depths and poor concrete condition. The existing concrete headwall and associated diversion headgates and forebay (i.e., headworks) to the diversion canal will also be replaced. The existing headworks are degrading due to concrete spalling. Replacing the headworks will improve diversion operation safety and efficiency. Project partners include the Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council, AWID, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project will provide passage to over three miles of high quality habitat for ESA listed Warner sucker and state sensitive Redband trout.
- Fish passage at this diversion dam site is a high priority for the recovery of Warner sucker and is part of a larger strategic plan in the Warner Lakes Basin to address passage and habitat for the species recovery, which is endemic to the Warner Lakes Basin.
- The alternatives analysis was helpful to understand the different approaches considered and provided a strong confidence the correct alternative was chosen.
- The project has a lot of partners contributing both technical and financial resources to the project.
- This project builds off previous technical assistance funding and is at 75% designed.

Concerns

- The project does not include screening the diversion. It was noted that given the diversion location, ditch, and river dynamics, there were a lot of unknowns on how best to screen the diversion. Accordingly, resources managers support passage and continue to best understand what type of screening would be viable for this particular site.
- While the water users of the Adel Water Improvement District stand to benefit greatly with a new diversion and head gate, there is no contribution from them. It would have been beneficial to see buy in from the local water users beyond general support.

Concluding Analysis

This project proposes fish passage for ESA listed Warner sucker and State sensitive Redband trout at the Town Diversion on Deep Creek near Adel. The restoration of fish passage will open up over three miles of high quality habitat for spawning and rearing for these species. The proposal included a detailed alternatives analysis that was helpful and informative to understand why the preferred alternative was chosen. The project boasts a long list of partners providing both technical and financial resources. While passage will be very beneficial for targeted fish species, there was a concern about not screening the diversion given the amount of flow that gets diverted and the possibility for fish entrainment in the ditches. This is a shared concern with fisheries managers; however, given the location, ditch and dynamics of the river and landscape, fisheries managers are unsure how to adequately screen the diversion without the screening being cost prohibitive. It would have been great to see more buy in from the local water district whose users will benefit greatly from a new diversion and head gate. Partners in the Warner basin have been working very collaboratively and are strategic in their approach and technique to provide fish passage with hopeful recovery of the Warner sucker.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$393,030

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$393,030

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4019-16053

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Ryan Ranch Riverbank Restoration Project

Applicant: Upper Deschutes WC

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: \$61,500

Total Cost: \$192,500

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Ryan Ranch Riverbank Restoration Project is located on the Deschutes River, approximately ten miles upstream from the City of Bend in Deschutes County, Oregon. Ryan Ranch encompasses approximately 70 acres of historic wetland adjacent to the Deschutes River that was cut off from the river by a berm constructed many decades ago. The wetland and adjacent riparian area along the berm is the focus of restoration because it historically supported the largest contiguous area of Oregon spotted frog habitat along the Deschutes River below Wickiup Dam and the area is identified as Critical Habitat by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition to blocking surface water connection between the river and the wetland, the berm is largely devoid of riparian habitat and experiencing active erosion. The erosion is limiting potential Oregon spotted frog habitat along the margins of the river, contributing sediment to the river, and jeopardizing public safety on a primary recreation trail. The Ryan Ranch Riverbank Restoration Project will focus on removing the berm, restoring the riparian area, relocating the trail and permanently restoring hydrologic connection between the Deschutes River and the wetland. Project partners include the Deschutes National Forest, Oregon Department of State Lands, Deschutes Basin Board of Control, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The restoration proposed at Ryan Ranch is a result of years of data collection and monitoring to understand the best approach to improve riparian, floodplain, and wetland conditions while balancing recreation needs.
- The project has a strong list of partners.
- The whole project cost is reasonable given the anticipated ecological uplift to result from this project.
- The project designs are complete, and the graphics and maps provided in the application were helpful. It is encouraging to see the design approach being taken from a functional reference reach directly across the river from this site.
- As designed, the project aims to improve Oregon spotted frog habitat along the floodplain fringes and adjacent wetlands.

Concerns

- It was unclear from the application and budget how the line item charged to OWEB "forest service

heavy equipment” is broken down. The application would benefit from more clarity on how this line item of \$2,500 per day is broken down into salaries and equipment.

- While the proposal includes 3 ft. tall woven poly mesh fence to protect the newly restored floodplain, it is unclear whether this will be enough to protect the newly restored floodplain given the recreational pressure and dogs brought here by recreationist.
- The application lacks specifics about the types of best management practices (BMP's) to be employed during construction. The project site is located in a sensitive environmental zone and it would have been helpful to understand specifically the types of measures the USFS will take to minimize impacts to natural resources.

Concluding Analysis

The restoration proposed at Ryan Ranch Meadow will restore floodplain and riparian vegetation while also promoting a hydrologic connection between the river and adjacent wetlands. The proposal is a result of various studies conducted over multiple years by the USFS to understand the hydrological impacts and habitat benefits. This area is designated critical habitat for the Oregon spotted frog. Reconnecting the hydrology to these wetlands will provide perennial habitat that is critical for all life stages of the species. The project is well supported by partners, and is the right action to promote floodplain and wetland connectivity and habitat enhancements for fish and wildlife. The applicant and USFS are well suited to do this work and there is high confidence it will be successful. This investment will have significant ecological uplift for floodplain and wetland function of the site. The applicant and USFS are encouraged to keep a close eye on the newly restored area and respond as necessary to protect the created habitat. Detailed BMP's for construction would have been helpful given the sensitive environment that heavy equipment will work in. It's possible this project will require a 401 water quality certification from DEQ.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$61,500

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$61,500

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4020-16062

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Big Summit Prairie Restoration
Phase 1

Applicant: Crooked River WC

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: \$391,951

Total Cost: \$673,981

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project is the first phase of restoration in the North Fork Crooked River watershed on Big Summit Prairie (BSP) and adjacent USFS lands in Crook County approximately 40 miles east of Prineville. BSP is a low gradient, wide valley, which acts as a catchment for many of the short, steep streams which drain off the surrounding higher topography of the Ochoco Mountains: in total, there are 17 named streams which flow onto BSP, 6 of which flow onto BSP within the project area. The North Fork Crooked River (NFCR) enters the prairie from the south, joining many of these streams and increasing exponentially in size, before flowing east from the prairie back onto USFS lands. Past management activities have resulted in an incised channel that is disconnected from its floodplain. In addition, the current irrigation diversion on the North Fork Crooked River does not provide fish passage or screening or the ability to actively control water intake through the use of water control structures. Lastly, the ranch has several riparian pastures (with plans in progress to create more), but the riparian pastures cannot be managed as such because there are no off-stream sources of water. Proposed activities will improve fish passage, instream habitat, and floodplain connectivity on the North Fork of the Crooked River. Additionally, water developments and fencing will improve the grazing management within the project area, allowing for better opportunities for passive restoration. OWEB, Waibel Properties LLC, and USFS funds will be used for all aspects of the project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant provided answers and information to address previous review team comments and concerns.
- The phased approach to watershed restoration of the prairie is well thought out and detailed.
- The proposed fencing and grazing management practices provided were well described in the application.
- The landowner owns additional land throughout the Crooked River basin; this project could spawn interest and opportunities for conservation on those additional lands.
- The landowner match is strong and they are willing and able to contribute to this project through in-kind and cash match.

Concerns

- The connection between the proposed prairie restoration and the 201 acre forest thinning on adjacent USFS lands was not well articulated. The thinning activities were not discussed in the Goals and Objectives or the Outcomes portion of the application. The forest thinning was not described in the USFS support letter.
- The overall project cost is expensive and the cost -benefit of the ecological uplift is questionable.
- While it was great to see letters of support from USFS and Trout Unlimited, the project still lacks funding partners.
- The project timeline seemed overly ambitious for completing all project elements by 12/31/18, and the applicant may not have capacity to meet this timeline.

Concluding Analysis

This application is a resubmittal for the fourth consecutive grant cycle. The project aims to improve a suite of habitats and functionality along the North Fork Crooked River on Big Summit Prairie. The project was recommended for funding during the last cycle but did not receive funding because of its low priority ranking. The opportunity for restoration of this site has the potential for lasting watershed benefit to the North Crooked River subbasin. The existing and proposed fencing and grazing management the landowner has committed to was very well described and aims for an upward trajectory in resource condition and function. It is great to see the USFS as a partner of this effort, although, the proposed forest thinning on USFS lands was not well described. It was hard to understand the connection of the prairie restoration to this 201 acre forest thinning. The application could have benefited from more detail on this project element. Specifically, it is unclear how the 201 acres would be treated to help justify the per acre cost described in the budget. The overall project budget is expensive, lacks funding partners, and has questionable restoration cost vs. benefit return value. The location of the prairie and proposed restoration of fish passage, floodplain connectivity, and riparian vegetation offer great opportunity for watershed benefit in the North Fork Crooked River subbasin.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$391,951

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4021-16073

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Swalley Piping Project, Rogers Lateral

Applicant: Deschutes River Conservancy

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: \$648,957

Total Cost: \$2,640,027

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Swalley Rogers Piping Project will pipe approximately 3 miles of district conveyance canals north of Cooley Road in Bend in Deschutes County, saving up to 2.3 cfs of seepage and evaporation loss. The project will permanently place senior water rights into the Deschutes River, addressing critical streamflow issues that are a major limiting factor for fish and wildlife habitat and water quality in the Deschutes River. Swalley is an irrigation district serving 4,331 acres in the Upper Deschutes Basin. The Rogers Project serves 187 water users with 1899 senior water rights out of the Middle Deschutes River. The project will also eliminate approximately 100 individual irrigation pumps, estimated to save irrigators up to 380,000 kWh a year. Swalley will construct the project in fall-winter 2018-2019. The Deschutes River Conservancy will manage the administrative process through the Oregon Water Resources Department to permanently protect conserved water instream.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Both the applicant and Swally Irrigation District have a long history in the basin of success in implementing and managing projects that permanently conserve water instream. There is high confidence this project will be successful.
- The applicant and its partners are leveraging a variety of resources to complete this project.
- This is the right action to improve stream flows in the Middle or Upper Deschutes River.
- This project is a result of a previous System Improvement Plan (SIP), which identified this specific project as a high priority.

Concerns

- The number of landowners, pumps, and turnouts described in the application is unclear. The number of turnouts (187) did not match up with the number of landowners identified (38) or the number of pumps (100) this project would eliminate. Clarity around how all these elements are connected would have been helpful.
- The application budget would benefit from additional information on the staff time budgeted for their role in this project to understand how it is necessary to successfully achieve the proposed objectives. While it's acknowledged administering conserved water allocation takes time, the time and need allotted for the Program Director was not clear.

- A large part of the budget was for 187 turnouts; however there was a lack of description of what these turnouts entail to help justify the budgeted lump sum identified for each.
- The project cost is expensive for the ecological return.

Concluding Analysis

This project proposes to install approximately three miles of irrigation pipe that would allow for permanently conserving instream 2.3 cfs of senior water rights held by Swally Irrigation District. The applicant and District have a long history in the basin of managing and implementing projects to conserve water instream. Based on the application and field visit with project proponents, there is a high level of confidence this project will be successful. There was no justification on why outreach materials identified in the budget were a necessity to achieve the stated instream water conservation. This project is the right action to increase stream flow in the Deschutes basin and both the applicant and Swally Irrigation District are well positioned to do this.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

5 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$648,957

Review Team Conditions

OWEB shall pay for project elements related to pipe and construction only.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

OWEB staff contacted the Deschutes River Conservancy regarding their staff time and outreach materials necessities and whether these are essential to achieving permanently protected instream water for the Deschutes Basin. Based on this, the line item for Outreach Materials budgeted at \$3,000 will be removed.

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$645,957

Staff Conditions

OWEB shall pay for project elements related to pipe and construction only.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4022-16078

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Big Marsh Restoration Project

Applicant: Upper Deschutes WC

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$68,500

Total Cost: \$342,500

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Big Marsh Restoration project focuses on restoring habitat for the Oregon spotted frog in a wetland complex that has been historically altered by grazing and the construction of drainage ditches. The site is located within the Crescent Creek watershed in the southwestern portion of the Crescent Ranger District on the Deschutes National Forest. The area is part of the Deschutes River headwaters southwest of the towns of Crescent and La Pine in Klamath County. Big Marsh is home to the largest population of threatened Oregon spotted frogs in the state, as well other threatened, endangered and sensitive plant and bird species. However, Oregon spotted frog summer and overwintering habitat has been lost through historic draining of the wetland, resulting in the drying of the site and encroachment of lodgepole pine. These changes have reduced the amount of available habitat, putting the frog at greater risk of predation and limiting its population size in the area. Restoration activities will include breaching and filling ditches to restore natural flows into Big Marsh and creating, preserving and connecting high quality Oregon spotted frog overwintering habitat throughout the marsh. Additional activities will include road obliteration and removing seven culverts that impede natural flow into Big Marsh and limit passage for aquatic organisms, lodgepole pine stand thinning, instream wood placement and riparian plantings. Project Partners include the Deschutes National Forest's Crescent Ranger District, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Oregon Hunters Association.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This proposal builds off a history of successful conservation throughout the Big Marsh area.
- The project has a strong list of partners.
- Big Marsh is a large stronghold for ESA listed Oregon spotted frog, and this project will improve year round habitat for this species by reconnecting surface hydrology.
- The holistic project approach has a relative light touch on the landscape yet will yield big uplift in hydrologic function and habitat availability for aquatic species.
- This project is a priority for the recovery of the Oregon spotted frog.
- The reasonable project cost will have a large ecological benefit for aquatic species and wetland function.

Concerns

- The proposal lacked details regarding the context of previous Big Marsh work, and specifically how this particular project was prioritized and fits into that bigger picture. It would have been helpful to see more documentation from the USFS regarding this.
- There was not a letter of support from the USFS, or any documentation that project elements have gone through the appropriate approval within the USFS.
- The application states water quality benefits but lacks description of how these benefits will be achieved and measured.
- The application did not include any ground photos of the project elements, which would have been helpful to understand the need for the restoration action proposed.
- The application and budget lacked descriptive detail on how the budget line items for forest service heavy equipment per day costs are broken down.

Concluding Analysis

Restoration proposed at Big Marsh in the Upper Little Deschutes Watershed will improve hydrologic function and year round habitat availability for aquatic species, including the ESA listed Oregon spotted frog. Big Marsh has been a conservation focus for the USFS for some time, including a multitude of restoration actions to date to improve terrestrial and aquatic habitat. The marsh is a stronghold for the Oregon spotted frog and is continually monitored by USGS and USFWS, whom will continue this monitoring post project. The restoration approach is a relative light touch on the landscape yet will provide a large hydrologic benefit to the marsh ecosystem. The application did lack historical context of previous work at Big Marsh and how this project prioritizes into that bigger picture. It was surprising there was not a letter of support from the USFS, given the project is on their land and the grant is paying their employees. The ecological benefit that will result from this project should have lasting improvements to year round habitat for Oregon spotted frog and recover the lost hydrologic function to Big Marsh.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$68,500

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$68,500

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4024-16009

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Oregon spotted frog and invasive bullfrogs: assembling base line data to guide restoration decisions

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$114,719

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Approaches that are adaptive and built on strong data foundation are particularly needed for restoration of wetland ecosystems. Our collaborative team will gather data needed for managing populations of the declining Oregon spotted frog (OSF) confronted with a harmful invader (American bullfrog, BF). OSF have declined across their range and in the Klamath Basin, and bullfrogs are expanding into key OSF habitats including our study area (Wood River valley around Fort Klamath, Klamath County). We will collect data to quantify abundance, distribution, and habitat use of both species in a large complex of managed wetlands. We will use these data along with information on habitat and landscape attributes to identify and evaluate management alternatives. Work addresses Upper Klamath Lake Opportunity Area and Wood River limiting factors of improving riparian system function and the goal of restoring emergent wetland habitats (ODFW 2006). The team will develop a Restoration/Monitoring proposal to implement management to increase OSF and reduce bullfrogs and monitor results based on sampling established during the Technical Assistance phase. Work will emphasize understanding relationships between both frogs and habitat attributes that can be managed. We include outreach to interested neighbors. This project develops relationships with landowners and capitalizes on an experienced team, matching resources, and a large study area. Ultimately, this project will lead to an adaptive management framework that will help the team navigate an array of management options. Our team includes a private landowner, Trout Unlimited, ODFW, USFWS, and USGS.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project location is on private land with a very supportive and engaged landowner.
- The project outcome would result in a better understanding of the relationship between Oregon Spotted frog and Bull frogs in similar habitats. This type of data analysis and understanding is limited in Oregon.
- Good letters of support, although there is no letter from USGS who is the primary partner in the grant.
- The applicant has proven success working with landowners in the Upper Wood River valley improving habitat for fish and wildlife.

Concerns

- The application read more like a monitoring and research project, with very little information regarding how this application was going to translate into future restoration or watershed benefit.
- It was unclear how current land use or management practices will be incorporated into the data collection, analysis, and any future management recommendations.
- The local BLM and USFS offices have technical expertise in this subject; it was unclear why those entities were not listed as potential partners.
- There is a demonstrated need to better understand Oregon spotted frog presence, absence, and habitat availability particularly in light of increasing pressure from Bull frogs. However, there was little evidence provided as to how and why the particular site was chosen and the need for this work at the chosen location.
- The overall project costs seemed expensive with little justification provided, particularly for a relatively small study area (~10 acres). More budget detail regarding USGS and field crews would have been helpful.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed technical assistance would aim to understand Oregon spotted frog presence and habitat availability in relation to increasing pressure from Bull frogs on private property in the Upper Wood River valley. While there is a general lack of data regarding Oregon spotted frog presence and potential impacts from Bull frogs, the application was light on details and lacks a connection to future restoration. The applicant has worked successfully with private landowners in this area, and the project was well supported. That said, there was no letter of support from the USGS who is the lead partner and major recipient of these grant funds. The application read more like a monitoring or research effort, and did not provide a lot of detail as to how and why the particular project site was chosen. The application did not discuss the current land management and use of the private property. Specifically, it would have been helpful to understand these uses and how they will be incorporated into the study and resultant future restoration plan. There was not a lot of budget detail regarding the USGS personnel, or detail regarding their pending match. While there is value to understand some of the proposed elements discussed, there wasn't enough information to demonstrate need and future outcomes for the project site.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

None

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4025-16079

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Thomas Creek Fish Passage - Amsbaugh Diversion

Applicant: Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: \$38,624

Total Cost: \$48,624

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Restoring fish passage for the 9 native Goose Lake Fish species in the Goose Lake Watershed is the focus of this project. Thomas Creek, the largest tributary to Goose Lake is a high priority for area resource managers as 8 native fish species reside, spawn and rear in this system. This project will address passage at the Amsbaugh Diversion located within the first 5 miles of stream. This project is a priority for the following reasons: 1) The Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council and partners have implemented multiple restoration - fish passage projects throughout the 40-mile stream, 2) All artificial barriers located upstream of this project have been re-designed to provide passage. This high priority project will provide data collection, 3 design alternatives, cost estimates, and a final design to determine the optimal choice for fish passage at this site. Project partners include: USFWS, ODFW, Amsbaugh Ranch, River Design Group, Inc.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- All barriers upstream of this project have been addressed with passage for all native species. Correcting passage at this project site will allow full access for aquatic species from Goose Lake into the entire Thomas Creek watershed.
- Passage design guidance for sucker species has grown significantly over the years, this project will benefit from past design and project monitoring to ensure success of this design.
- While final restoration actions are unknown, the technical assistance approach should be cost effective given the past investment and current structure in place.

Concerns

- There was no letter of support from the landowner.
- The engineer cost and time amounts seem high when there is potential for a quick fix, although the passage solution is unknown.
- It was unclear if or how previous project data and designs from project locations upstream could be incorporated, seems like this could provide some cost savings.
- The application did not mention accessing any project data from Ducks Unlimited who designed and constructed the previous project, there might be some cost savings in reviewing and utilizing as-builts, designs, or project data.

- There was no fish monitoring data to suggest suckers and lamprey cannot pass at this diversion.

Concluding Analysis

The technical assistance proposed for Thomas Creek is to develop passage designs for a current barrier to sucker and lamprey species. The project location is a few miles upstream from Goose Lake and the project will open up 32 miles of habitat for all native species. A significant amount of work has occurred upstream on Thomas Creek including passage at all diversions. This diversion was a focus for restoration by Ducks Unlimited in the early 2000's, however at the time the technology and science did not take into account the needs for sucker and lamprey species, and subsequently the structure does not provide passage for these species. The potential restoration actions to correct passage at this diversion are unknown, but there is thought it may be a relatively cheap correction. While it wasn't mentioned in the application, it's hopeful the applicant and its design team can look at previous projects on Thomas Creek and look for lessons learned and/or use existing data that's already been collected. Similarly, given the project site was constructed not too long ago, perhaps Ducks Unlimited can share project data and designs to assist in this effort. To provide full access from Goose Lake up through the entire Thomas Creek basin will be very beneficial for native species. Recent monitoring near the project site indicated a strong abundance and age class of Redband trout.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 1

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$38,624

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$38,624

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4026-15978

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Real-Time, High-Frequency
Estimates of Nutrient and Sediment Loads in the
Williamson and Sprague Riv

Applicant: The Klamath Tribes

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$217,770

Total Cost: \$352,620

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) Project Location: The Upper Klamath Basin, including the Williamson, and Sprague sub-basins, encompassing approximately 4,600 square miles.2) Project Need: Poor water quality in Upper Klamath lake is partly attributed to phosphorus loads from tributaries to the lake. Reduction of loads to the lake is a requirement of the 2002 TMDL, which requires a 40 percent reduction of phosphorus from external sources. Because phosphorus is transported with suspended sediment, long-term, accurate assessments of phosphorus and sediment loads are needed to determine if reductions are occurring, and which of the two sub-basins (Sprague or Williamson) are contributing more or less phosphorus and sediment to the lake. An understanding of the temporal trends in phosphorus and sediment loads to the lake is important to resource managers in the Upper Klamath Basin, and for restoration practitioners attempting to improve stream health and habitat conditions for aquatic species. With the goals of sediment and phosphorus reduction at the watershed scale in mind, advanced techniques to monitor temporal variations in loads will be necessary to track the combined efficacy of restoration efforts in the Upper Klamath Basin and to determine if the TMDL targeted reductions are being met.3) Proposed Work: Using surrogate regression models developed by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), concentrations and loads of suspended sediment and phosphorus to Upper Klamath Lake can be computed in near real-time from the monitoring sites proposed in this application. To achieve this, phosphorus and suspended-sediment samples are collected along with real-time turbidity data. Phosphorus and suspended-sediment loads computed using these techniques can then be reported on multiple time scales, including hours, weeks, months, and years. 4) The primary project partner will be the United States Geological Survey.1) Project Location: The Upper Klamath Basin, including the Williamson, and Sprague sub-basins, encompassing approximately 4,600 square miles.2) Project Need: Poor water quality in Upper Klamath lake is partly attributed to phosphorus loads from tributaries to the lake. Reduction of loads to the lake is a requirement of the 2002 TMDL, which requires a 40 percent reduction of phosphorus from external sources. Because phosphorus is transported with suspended sediment, long-term, accurate assessments of phosphorus and sediment loads are needed to determine if reductions are occurring, and which of the two sub-basins (Sprague or Williamson) are contributing more or less phosphorus and sediment to the lake. An understanding of the temporal trends in phosphorus and sediment loads to the lake is important to resource managers in the Upper Klamath Basin, and for restoration practitioners attempting to improve stream health and habitat conditions for aquatic species. With the goals of

sediment and phosphorus reduction at the watershed scale in mind, advanced techniques to monitor temporal variations in loads will be necessary to track the combined efficacy of restoration efforts in the Upper Klamath Basin and to determine if the TMDL targeted reductions are being met.3) Proposed Work: Using surrogate regression models developed by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), concentrations and loads of suspended sediment and phosphorus to Upper Klamath Lake can be computed in near real-time from the monitoring sites proposed in this application. To achieve this, phosphorus and suspended-sediment samples are collected along with real-time turbidity data. Phosphorus and suspended-sediment loads computed using these techniques can then be reported on multiple time scales, including hours, weeks, months, and years. 4) The primary project partner will be the United States Geological Survey.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This project will contribute to TMDL implementation tracking efforts, as well as other monitoring and restoration efforts in the basin.
- The data will be made available and used in a meaningful way helping project partners reach out to landowners to implement future restoration.
- The application proposes to follow protocols and methods that are technically sound and widely acceptable.
- The partners on the application are highly qualified to complete the project as proposed, leading to a high certainty of success.
- The Klamath Tribes have their own lab for water sample analysis; the lab is geographically close to the sampling sites, which results in a cost savings.
- The project report will publish sediment load data for multiple years, including this project data at both sites, as well as using data from past years.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- There are lump sums in the budget for salaries for USGS positions for three years, and the budget details were inadequate to understand why the applicant is requesting this amount.
- There were no letters of support from restoration practitioners or DEQ.
- It was not clear who the applicant would work with to communicate the results to interested stakeholders.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High-75%, Medium-13%, Low-13%

Certainty of Success

High-75%, Medium-25%, Low-0%

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The data to be collected, analyzed, and reported will be high quality and founded upon vigorous QA/QC standards completed by the Tribes and USGS.
- The applicant and its partners addressed previous review team comments specifically about project clarity and budgets.
- The need to understand the severity, timing, and abundance of nutrient loading to the Upper Klamath Lake from the Williamson and Sprague rivers systems are incredibly important given that nutrient loading, specifically Phosphorus, is a limiting factor to the biological productivity of species inhabiting the lake, most notably two ESA listed suckers species.
- The lab at which the data will be analyzed is certified and located very close to the collection sites. The project also has the benefit of utilizing past data collected to further the understanding of nutrient loading to the Upper Klamath Lake.

Concerns

- There appears to be a disconnect between the information to be learned from this monitoring effort and restoration practitioners, there were no letters of support from watershed partners or other stakeholders in the basin.
- It is unclear why other agencies are not involved in this work, specifically ODEQ and ODA.
- One monitoring site per basin for data capturing poses challenges in deciphering where to focus restoration efforts to reduce sediment loads given both basins are very large in size.
- It is unclear why data collection design is different from the baseline that generated the 2002 TMDL. Application would benefit from an explanation on how data would be cross walked to determine confidence in the data comparisons.

Concluding Analysis

This monitoring project is a resubmittal from November 2016. The applicant and its partners did a good job at addressing previous review team comments. The data need is well justified given the significant impacts Phosphorus loading has on the biological productivity of Upper Klamath Lake, specifically for two ESA listed sucker species. Both the Tribes and USGS have a long history of water quality monitoring and data analysis in the area, they are well suited to provide a high quality product. The Tribes certified laboratory is located close to collection sites and the project will have the benefit of utilizing past data collected to better their understanding of the problem. As with the first grant submission, there still is a lack of support from watershed practitioners and other agency stakeholders. Additionally, the application failed to make connections between the data analysis guiding future restoration, given the size of the watersheds and the sampling location at the bottom of the watershed. The overall need for this project is great, the data collection and analysis will be high quality, and the resulting data will be useful.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 1

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$217,770

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$217,770

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4027-15994

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Monitoring beaver dam analogs for restoration of the South Fork of the Crooked River

Applicant: OSU Office of Sponsored Programs

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: \$184,820

Total Cost: \$382,899

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The South Fork of the Crooked River, near Paulina, Oregon, has unstable trout populations and flows, is disconnected from portions of its floodplain, and has entirely lost its historic woody riparian vegetation. Here we propose to monitor five beaver dam analogs for three years that we installed on the South Fork at the Jake Place in July 2016. In a collaboration involving OSU-Cascades, CREP-Crook SWCD, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, we will use flow stations, groundwater wells, sondes, hobsos, RTK GPS, fluvial audits, PIT tagging, drone flights, and vegetation measurements to monitor the effects of BDAs on seasonal surface water flows, groundwater storage, surface water pollutants, stream temperatures, sediment capture, fish, and the response of woody riparian vegetation planted for restoration. Our study is needed to help watershed managers to better understand the effectiveness of BDAs in creating the ecological uplift needed to help return the South Fork and similar streams to predisturbance conditions, thus supporting fish populations, water quality, water availability, and riparian forests. Our study is also needed to learn more about the effects of BDAs on fish movement, and it may help to refine and identify key parameters for monitoring of BDAs as their popularity increases as a restoration tool in Oregon.

The South Fork of the Crooked River, near Paulina, Oregon, has unstable trout populations and flows, is disconnected from portions of its floodplain, and has entirely lost its historic woody riparian vegetation. Here we propose to monitor five beaver dam analogs for three years that we installed on the South Fork at the Jake Place in July 2016. In a collaboration involving OSU-Cascades, CREP-Crook SWCD, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, we will use flow stations, groundwater wells, sondes, hobsos, RTK GPS, fluvial audits, PIT tagging, drone flights, and vegetation measurements to monitor the effects of BDAs on seasonal surface water flows, groundwater storage, surface water pollutants, stream temperatures, sediment capture, fish, and the response of woody riparian vegetation planted for restoration. Our study is needed to help watershed managers to better understand the effectiveness of BDAs in creating the ecological uplift needed to help return the South Fork and similar streams to predisturbance conditions, thus supporting fish populations, water quality, water availability, and riparian forests. Our study is also needed to learn more about the effects of BDAs on fish movement, and it may help to refine and identify key parameters for monitoring of BDAs as their popularity increases as a restoration tool in Oregon.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This restoration technique is now being implemented more widely and it is important to monitor the effects outside of Bridge Creek, from which the majority of information currently available is coming.
- The OPMT liked that the application proposed collecting imagery using drone flights to track vegetation changes over time and space.
- The SF Crooked River is over appropriated and understanding the effects to surface and ground water would be very valuable to landowners who might be interested in implementing BDAs in the future.
- This application offers strong outreach opportunities with local citizens and participating landowners.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application was not clear if there were beavers in the area that would leverage development of the BDAs, or if the BDAs are intended to mimic dams in the absence of beaver.
- It would have been helpful to know if landowners in the area are interested in increasing the beaver population in the area.
- The applicant is relying on monitoring the presence and movement of fish with the use of mobile antennas as opposed to fixed antennae arrays. This will offer limited information based on frequency of site visits.
- The applicant proposes to tag hatchery fish and place them in low quality habitat areas, making the information obtained from this project limited in terms of exportability.
- The application did not have a thorough description or citation of the various monitoring proposed and the associated quality assurance/quality control measures needed to ensure a successful project over the period of time (in particular, given the heavy involvement and cycling through of students in this project).

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High-24%, Medium-63%, Low-13%

Certainty of Success

High-13%, Medium-63%, Low-24%

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- There is a local need to understand fish passage effectiveness of these structures, this application will seek to address this.
- The approach of looking at the effectiveness of these structures relating to the on-going CREP plantings should provide good information on revegetation targets and effectiveness.
- The landowner is supportive of the ongoing restoration and monitoring occurring on the property.

Concerns

- There was concern that the beavers present on the site are bank beavers (given their food source of cattails and sagebrush) and question the reasoning behind beaver dam analogue placement in this location given the low amount of woody vegetation in the area. Reviewers question if this is the right location to intensively study the effectiveness of beaver dam analogues (BDA).
- A lot of the monitoring questions being asked in the application are ones that have been answered through a recent publication in a neighboring watershed. One key question not being asked was structural stability of these structures, which has been an issue on this site.
- Since not everything is transferrable, monitoring only five structures may not be enough to have a real impact.
- The proposal stated there would be water quality benefits but did not offer how this would be achieved.
- The overall cost is high compared to the usefulness of the information for a relatively cheap restoration action.

Concluding Analysis

This monitoring project will evaluate a number of different physical and biological parameters to understand the effectiveness of five Beaver Dam Analogues (BDA's) along the South Fork Crooked River. The site also has ongoing and future CREP plantings that are being strategically implemented with the BDA placement. While understanding the effectiveness of these structures has merit, there were a lot of unanswered questions to understand the justification for the location to conduct this work. The lack of monitoring protocols and citations make it difficult to determine the applicability of this information. It was unclear whether the groundwater wells were permitted, and how they were installed. The water quality component did not have any justification as to how water quality improvements would be achieved. Understanding fish passage and use around BDA's is a strong local need, but utilizing hatchery fish will have limited exportability to other locations. The South Fork Crooked River is unlikely to have a lot of beaver presence given the lack of woody vegetation on site (floodplains seem more dominant in sedge/rush communities) and documented herbivory on-site is cattails and sagebrush. BDA use is on the rise and there is a lack of monitoring data. There is a recent publication from a neighboring watershed that has answered a lot of the questions being asked in this application. The exportability of the proposed monitoring data has too many limitations.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

None

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4028-16065

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Rural Irrigation Conservation and Efficiency Outreach

Applicant: Central Oregon Irrigation District

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$132,658

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project location: The upper Deschutes Basin - targeting Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook Counties .The project need: The need is critical as the Deschutes River is over-allocated. Over-allocation causes low flows, resulting in poor water quality in the middle Deschutes and impacts to reintroduced anadromous fish, resident redband trout and the Oregon spotted frog, a listed threatened species. This program will provide benefits beyond larger conservation projects and planning that are ongoing, support the goals of the nearly complete Basin Study and Habitat Conservation plan and help ensuring the sustainable use of this important water resource for farms, fish and families. The mission of the Rural Irrigation Conservation and Efficiency (RICE) program is to engage and recruit water-users and provide technical assistance to improve irrigation efficiency and management practices. The goal is to: create a program that will raise water-user awareness and understanding of how to improve management of water quantity and quality by providing resources and affordable tools to these water-users; resulting in improved irrigation efficiency and reducing the quantity of water needed to irrigate basin-wide. This outreach will also inform about the instream lease program while inspiring social-behavioral change that promotes conservation and efficient water use and can result in water protected instream. The project partners are: Oregon Department of Agriculture Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District OSU Extension Service Central Oregon Ag Research Center Farmers Conservation Alliance Natural Resource Conservation Service Deschutes River Conservancy Deschutes Basin Board of Control OSU Cascades Oregon Water Resources Department Oregon Water Resources Congress

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The justification for this project was well documented, water conservation is an ever increasing need and direct communication with water users is very important.
- The project is well supported by partners and stakeholders in the basin.
- The District and partners have been working on this for a long while and are well suited for project success.
- The project will result in a “boots-on-the-ground” effort of direct engagement with water users which can create a lot of opportunities for water conservation.

Concerns

- The scale of the project is large (three Counties). With such a wide distribution and large number of patrons, the impact would be very hard to quantify. It is unclear as to why this effort was not directly focused in areas targeted for conservation (e.g. PL 566, ongoing piping projects, etc.). Directly linking on-farm engagement in areas with existing and/or future conservation work would have more value, the application failed to articulate those connections.
- It was unclear what the conservation efficiencies and targets would be, more definitive outcomes would have been helpful (for example, 75 soil moisture probes will be installed/monitored). The application lacked details on quantifying the types and value the irrigation efficiencies will have for instream water conservation.
- It was unclear how these on-farm efficiencies would equate to quantified conserved water instream, more detail on how these projects would translate to conserve water instream would have been helpful.
- While the project need is clear, it appears a lot of this work is already happening throughout the basin.
- Engagement with landowners takes time and nurturing, there was no plan for how this work would be carried out after the life cycle of this grant

Concluding Analysis

This stakeholder engagement proposal will target water users across three Counties in the Deschutes Basin to strike partnerships in employing on farm irrigation efficiencies directly related to water conservation. However, the application lacked in details and failed to articulate the measurable outcomes to be gained through these on-farm efficiencies. There was concern spreading the effort this thin it would be very hard to discern the impact of the effort. A more narrow focus directly tied to an existing or on-going effort may have more measurable and quantitative impacts for on-farm efficiencies and water conservation. While the application identified numbers of people for outreach, the specific outcomes of what those on-farm efficiencies would be were not provided, so it's hard to understand the water conservation value without knowing what users would employ on-farm. It was unclear how these efficiencies would translate into conserved water instream; more detail on how the District would approach this would have been helpful. The need for engaging the many water users in the Deschutes Basin is greatly needed. The applicant is encouraged to resubmit an application considering a strategic focus area tied to other efforts to make the outreach impact more meaningful, while clearly articulating what success looks like and quantifying measurable on-farm efficiencies relating to conserved water instream.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

None

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

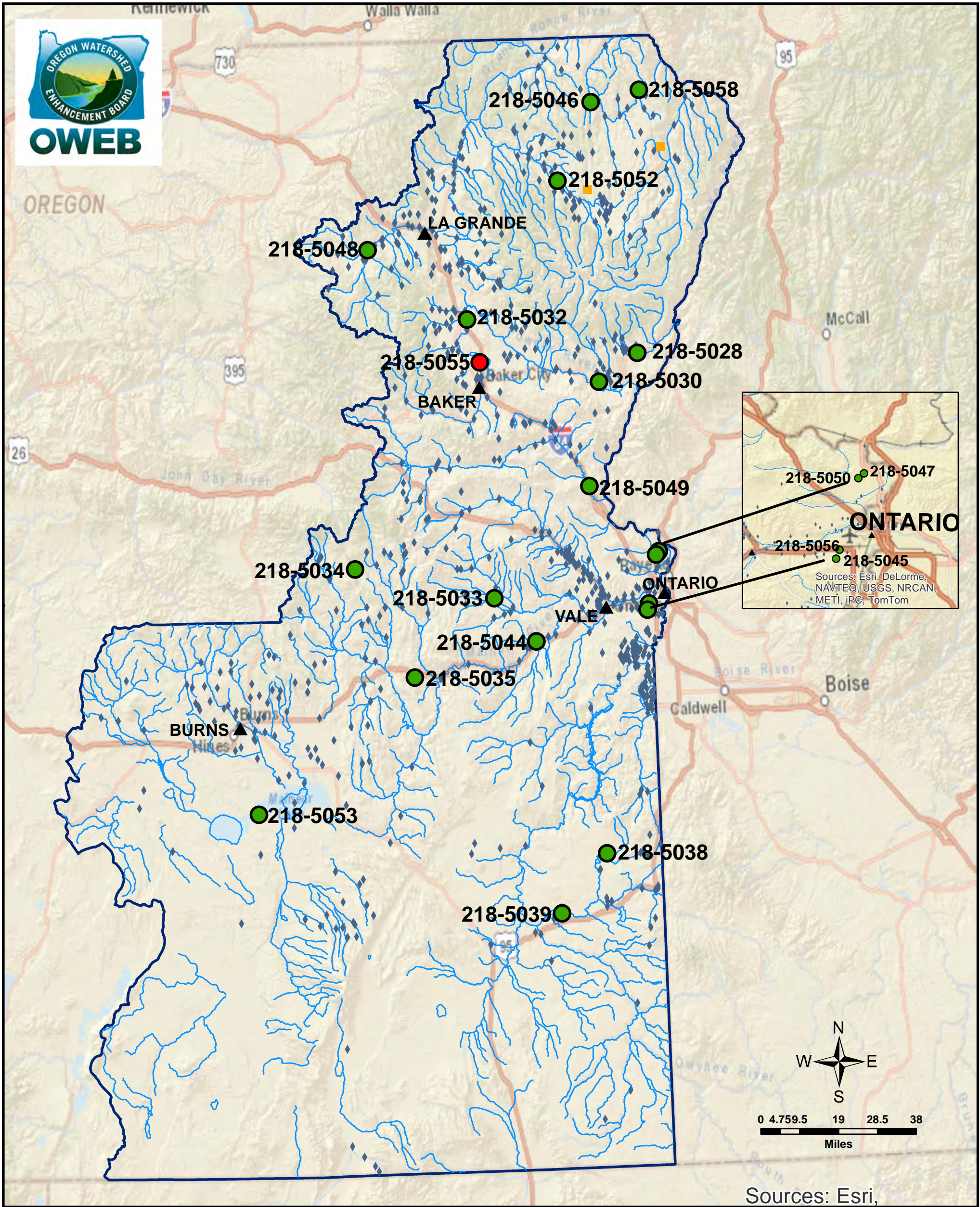
Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Eastern Oregon - Region 5 Fall 2017 Funding Recommendations



Sources: Esri,

Document Path: Z:\oweb\Technical_Services\Information_Services\GISMaps\Review Team Meetings\2017FallCycle\Projects\Region5_AppFundingStatus_11x17_2017Fall.mxd
 ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB- PK Wills Fall 20180327

Fall 2017 Applications

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants - 1998-Spring 2017

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region 1 Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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 Salem, OR 97301-1290
 (503) 986-0178
<http://oregon.gov/OWEB/>

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Region 5 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Region 5 - Eastern Oregon | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-5028 | Eagle Valley SWCD | East Pine Fish Passage | A push-up dam on East Pine Creek near Halfway will be replaced with a permanent fish-friendly diversion structure to provide passage and improve habitat for ESA-listed bull trout. In addition, 75 acres will be converted from flood to sprinkler irrigation to improve water quality and 85 trees and shrubs planted near the existing point-of-diversion. | 51,851 | Baker |
| 218-5033 | Malheur Watershed Council | Seeking Justus on Bully Creek | An existing 3,500-foot downcut channel on Bully Creek near Westfall will be improved by installing 5 riffles, 12 vertical-post structures, 1,000 willow whips, 1,000 feet of root wads and woody debris. Implementation will benefit redband trout, Columbia spotted frog and water quality. | 47,654 | Malheur |
| 218-5034 | Malheur Watershed Council | Crane Prairie: Forest Health, Aspen Restoration and Grazing Management | A comprehensive upland project located south of Prairie City will improve aspen stands; fence the headwaters of Crane Creek; thin overstocked lodgepole stands; develop a spring and improve wet-meadow habitat. The project improves grazing management and enhances perennial bunchgrass community and bull trout spawning habitat. | 117,875 | Grant |
| 218-5032 | Powder Basin Watershed Council | Makin' Things Better on the Powder River | A point-of-diversion (POD) near North Powder will be moved downstream leaving 5 cfs in the Powder River for 4.3 miles. In addition, 150 feet of root wads and rock will stabilize the bank at the diversion site; 3,500 feet of exclusion fencing will be constructed and two pivots installed to improve water quality by converting from flood to sprinkler irrigation. | 171,565 | Baker |
| 218-5046 | Wallowa Resources | Lower Grande Ronde Watershed Noxious Weed Management | Selected herbicides will be used on 400 acres of yellow starthistle, rush skeletonweed and other targeted weeds in steep canyonlands of Wallowa County. The project also includes surveying 121,500 acres to locate satellite weed populations; seeding 50 acres and developing a management plan. | 48,864 | Wallowa |
| 218-5048 | Tri-City Coop Weed Mgmt. Area | Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control Phase III | Tri-County CWMA will target 26 miles of riparian areas of the upper Grande Ronde basin to treat leafy spurge, spotted knapweed and meadow hawkweed. This is an on-going effort that treats 8 acres in the riparian area and 135 acres in the uplands. | 25,500 | Union |
| 218-5035 | Malheur Watershed Council | Crippling Juniper | A comprehensive upland project near Drewsey will cut 1,300 acres of Stage 1 and Stage II juniper; install a cistern and 10,500 feet of cross-fence, and plant 480 willows along the riparian areas of Cripple and Chimney Creeks. The project complements extensive work done on this property to improve upland and riparian conditions. | 146,040 | Malheur |

Region 5 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--|--|------------------|---------|
| 218-5045 | Malheur SWCD | Vista View Phase II | Costs increased for an existing Owyhee Irrigation District project on Vista View Avenue in Ontario that will pipe 10,500 feet of an earthen irrigation conveyance lateral for 640 acres. This project will provide the 21% increase needed for pipe. | 38,965 | Malheur |
| 218-5030 | Eagle Valley SWCD | Dance Hall Stockwater | An upland project near Richland will develop off-stream water to eliminate livestock watering from perennial streams and ditches. Project components include installing four troughs, a cistern and will help implement rotation grazing on five pastures and improve perennial bunchgrass health and vigor. | 48,012 | Baker |
| 218-5050 | Malheur SWCD | Hunting Water Quality in Sheperd Gulch | This project will install two pivots in the Hyline Bench Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) to convert from flood to sprinkler irrigation on 38 acres near Ontario. Implementation eliminates runoff into Coyote Gulch and water quality will improve. | 44,889 | Malheur |
| 218-5047 | Malheur SWCD | Circling Above the Hyline | Owyhee Irrigation District and the landowner will convert 72 acres from flood irrigation to sprinkler and pipe 3,590 feet of open ditch. Water quality in the Hyline Bench CIS near Ontario will improve. | 60,608 | Malheur |
| 218-5039 | Owyhee WC | West Nile Mile Water Quality Improvement | Partnering with NRCS and Trout Unlimited, this project located near Arock will convert 112 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation. Direct runoff to Jordan Creek will be eliminated and water quality will be improved. | 149,236 | Malheur |
| 218-5049 | Malheur SWCD | Lime-Aid-Remix | 1,500 acres of uplands affected in 2015 by the Lime Hill fire near Lime on I-84 will be enhanced. Project components include installing 13,687 feet of fencing, two troughs and a spring development to facilitate rotational grazing, improve upland vegetation and protect the Burnt River riparian area. | 52,064 | Baker |
| 218-5044 | Malheur Watershed Council | Mockingbird One | Located directly on the Malheur River near Harper, this project will convert 31 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation. This is the first of three phases that will significantly improve water quality to address goals in the Malheur TMDL. | 78,286 | Malheur |
| 218-5038 | Owyhee Watershed Council | Destination Desolation Water Quality Improvement | Located near Jordan Craters north of Jordan Valley, this project is the first phase of a 374-acre plan and converts 86 acres from flood to border irrigation. Water quality to Cow Creek and Upper Cow Lake will be improved. | 157,877 | Malheur |
| Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff | | | | 1,239,286 | |

Region 5 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Restoration Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order | | | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| None | | None | | | |
| Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | 1,239,286 | |

| Restoration Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | |
|--|---|--|-------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount Requested | County |
| 218-5040 | Owyhee WC | Charbonneaus Revenge Medusahead Wipeout | 152,484 | Malheur |
| 218-5042 | Malheur SWCD | Island in the Stream | 92,854 | Malheur |
| 218-5051 | Farmers Conservation Alliance | North Prairie Pipeline - Phase 1 | 262,105 | Wallowa |
| 218-5037 | Harney SWCD | Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Implementation HC18 | 58,391 | Harney |
| 218-5027 | Grande Ronde Model Watershed Foundation | Wallowa-Baker Fish Habitat Restoration Project | 182,824 | Wallowa |
| 218-5029 | Eagle Valley SWCD | Foresee Erosion | 92,854 | Baker |
| 218-5031 | Powder Basin WC | Lower Clear Creek Restoration (Phase 1) | 72,014 | Baker |
| 218-5036 | Malheur SWCD | Protecting Redband on the Middle Willow Creek | 123,102 | Malheur |
| 218-5041 | Wallowa Resources | Upper Willowa River Restoration Project | 225,000 | Wallowa |

| Restoration Applications Deemed Ineligible Prior to Review | | | | |
|---|----------------|--|---------------|----------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | Malheur |
| 218-5043 | Owyhee | Three Fingers Fuels Reduction and Grazing Research | 88,951 | Grant |

Region 5 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-5052 | Grande Ronde Model Watershed Foundation | Wallowa River- McDaniel Phase 3 Technical Design | Designs are sought for Phase 3 of a restoration project located near Enterprise to benefit ESA-listed spring Chinook salmon and steelhead. The resulting restoration project will provide a new side channel, floodplain connectivity, alcove and swale complexes. | 49,987 | Wallowa |
| 218-5053 | The Nature Conservancy | Harney Basin Groundwater-Dependent Ecosystems- Nov. 2017 | TNC will provide analyses to identify ecosystems and species dependent on groundwater discharge; current ecological conditions and how groundwater supply has changed over the last two decades. This effort dovetails into the Placed-based Planning that will help plan for future water management plants. | 48,976 | Harney |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff | | | | 98,963 | |
| Technical Assistance Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| None | | | None | | |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | 98,963 | |
| Technical Assistance Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County | |
| 218-5054 | Powder Basin WC | Lower Clear Creek Diversion & Restoration Designs | 74,109 | Baker | |

Region 5 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|--|----------------|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| None | | | | | |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff | | | | 0 | |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County | |
| None | | None | | | |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT | | | | 0 | |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County | |
| 218-5059 | Baker County | Baker County Invasive Species Program Coordinator | 16,848 | Baker | |

Region 5 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-5056 | Malheur Watershed Council | No Mo Flo Without Info: Installing and Maintaining Gauges in Malheur | The Malheur Watershed Council will install an additional 7 flow-measuring weirs to compute streamflow records to calculate pollutant load estimates. Collected data will provide more accurate water quality information resulting from many implemented water quality enhancement projects in the Owyhee and Malheur basins. | 136,500 | Malheur |
| 218-5058 | Wallowa Resources | Monitoring the Effects of Management on Stream | Wallowa Resources and partners will help initiate a collaborative range monitoring initiative that generates information on levels of annual use and resulting conditions. Goals are to provide baseline data to inform management decisions and activities that will move streams toward desired conditions to improve riparian vigor. | 22,000 | Wallowa |
| Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff | | | | 158,500 | |
| Monitoring Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount | County |
| 218-5055 | Powder Basin Watershed Council | Powder Basin Long-term Water Quality Monitoring | The Powder Basin Watershed Council will continue to collect water quality data at 29 sites throughout the Powder and Burnt River basins. Parameters monitored include temperature , pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen and turbidity to help determine long-tern trends and engage landowners and the public. | 30,975 | Baker |
| Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT | | | | 189,475 | |
| Monitoring Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount Requested | County | |
| 218-5057 | Harney County | Harney Groundwater Mgmt. - Filling the Evapotranspiration (ET) Gap | 311,174 | Harney | |
| Region 5 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award | | | | 1,496,749 | 14% |
| Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award | | | | 10,753,978 | |

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5028-15924

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: East Pine Fish Passage

Applicant: Eagle Valley SWCD

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$51,851

Total Cost: \$268,859

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Located on East Pine Creek in Halfway, this project proposes to move the non-fish friendly Buck and Anderson push up diversion downstream ½ mile where a permanent fish friendly diversion structure and screened pumping unit will be installed. The new diversion and pump will convert 75 acres of previously flooded pasture to sprinkler irrigation under pivot and pod lines. A planting plan will be put into place to install both containerized and pole plantings in a designated, fenced riparian area near the current point of diversion (POD) as well as containerized plantings protected with livestock panels near the new POD. The Buck and Anderson diversion is one of nine diversions located on East Pine Creek that present passage barriers. The current push up diversion is constructed in May and removed in October once irrigation season is complete. During fall irrigation, when flows decrease in East Pine Creek, this gravel pushup dam results in a complete diversion of remaining stream flows, creating a mitigation barrier to native fish. The ditch gradient on this diversion is relatively low, requiring excessive water to push water across the flood irrigated field resulting in an inefficient use of irrigation water in addition to instream blockages for migratory fish. Project partners in both design and implementation include; Armacost/DelCurto (landowners, operators), Idaho Power Company (partnership funding, design, construction planning and oversight, permitting support), OWRD (design, water right transfer support), USFWS (partners for fish and wildlife funding, design), ODFW (project design), Anderson Perry (permitting support and design/implementation survey).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is comprehensive and well-written, and the budget has excellent detail.
- The project will remove a push-up dam and change the point-of-diversion (POD) downstream one-half mile.
- East Pine Creek is critical habitat for ESA-listed bull trout.
- This diversion addresses one of nine passage issues on East Pine Creek. The diversions are prioritized with this being the second highest priority.
- Implementation has water quality benefits by reducing sediment, nutrients, and bacterial inputs. There are also water quantity benefits as less irrigation water will be diverted to the two proposed pivots.
- Partner support is demonstrated by project match.

Concerns

- The planting plan would be strengthened by additional detail given the amount of disturbance in the area.

Concluding Analysis

East Pine Creek is critical bull trout habitat. The project site was selected as part of a prioritization process and addresses water quality and water quantity concerns. Diversions with a minimum of 4 cfs are prioritized for replacement. The permanent fish-friendly rock structure will allow passage at all flows and addresses connectivity. By moving the POD downstream, water stays longer in East Pine Creek adding to benefits for bull trout. Fish entrainment in the ditch will be eliminated. The applicant estimated that irrigation consumption will be 1.5 cfs, a significant reduction from the 4 cfs currently needed. In addition to providing fish passage, 75 acres will be converted from flood to sprinkler irrigation. The project has excellent ecological uplift.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$51,851

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$51,851

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5029-15926

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Foresee Erosion

Applicant: Eagle Valley SWCD

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$92,854

Total Cost: \$118,074

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project site is located in Baker County near Richland, Oregon on Eagle Creek, 2.5 miles from the point it enters into the Powder River. The landscape of this project consists of enclosed riparian areas along the banks of Eagle Creek and irrigated pasture. The entire project site is located in critical bull trout habitat (Map 5, USFW Critical Habitat Maps) within the Powder River Basin Unit and is thought to contain 10 local populations of bull trout. The landowner has four sites of eroding bank totaling 1,100 feet that will be addressed through this project. Located only 2.5 miles from the Powder River and 1 mile from Brownlee Reservoir, reducing the amount of sediment and debris entering into the watershed will benefit water quality and fish habitat. This project will resolve watershed issues of erosion, sedimentation, degrading fish habitat and flood risk to surrounding landowners. This project will address primary threats to bull trout through; Upland/Riparian Land Management, Instream Impacts and Water quality listed in the USFWS Habitat Recovery Plan. The landowner came to the Eagle Valley SWCD proposing to anchor native tree revetments to the bank, install root wads and riparian plantings to restore proper bank stabilization. The Eagle Valley SWCD has been in contact with Idaho Power Company and the West Eagle Valley Water Control District to ensure their support of this project (see attached letters of support).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is well-written and provided detail.
- The high- and low-flow photos in the application provide an understanding of the project area and issues. These photos depict a significant shift in Eagle Creek's channel resulting from the 2010 high-flow event.
- Eagle Creek is most likely bull trout habitat.
- Restoration design emphasizes a "softer" approach with vegetative bioengineering.
- The channel is wide at the project site and energy transfer from water flow should have sufficient room before creating a problem.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the stream will scour around constructed bank structures and then create additional erosion and channel movement.

- Additional design information is needed to determine the extent to which instream structures will extend into the channel.
- Applicant will likely need additional time in the budget for permitting.
- Eagle Creek is very flashy, and other implemented projects have blown out during storm events.

Concluding Analysis

Eagle Creek is a very flashy, high velocity stream with its headwaters in the Eagle Cap wilderness. The system has large cobbles and boulders. Previously implemented projects on Eagle Creek experienced significant damage after the 2010 rain-on-snow event. The need for the project was demonstrated at the site visit as well as from the provided photos. The application includes preliminary designs and requests funding for the final design. Due to the flashy nature of Eagle Creek as well as experience from previously implemented projects, a more thorough design is needed to determine the likelihood for success. The applicant should consider submitting a technical assistance application to obtain thorough and detailed project designs.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5030-15930

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Dance Hall Stockwater

Applicant: Eagle Valley SWCD

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$48,012

Total Cost: \$62,049

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Currently there is no available livestock water on the property, except for one intermittent stream and one irrigation ditch that drains directly into the Powder River. By developing an offsite watering system, livestock will be encouraged to utilize the upland slopes of the pastures and spend less time grazing near perennial streams and irrigation ditches. The landowner is actively searching for restoration improvements on his property; he recognizes that he is within NRCS designated mule deer habitat and has previously designated 12 acres of riparian area that excludes livestock grazing and provides a wildlife refuge. The next step towards restoration is to provide off stream watering locations in all pastures to encourage livestock grazing on the upland portions of his pastures. This project is located five miles outside of Richland, Oregon within the Powder River Basin. The landscape of this project consists of upland sagebrush steppe, irrigated pasture and a series of small streams and ditches that flow through riparian areas directly into the Powder River. The landowner is seeking assistance in the development of a pumping station from an unused existing domestic well producing 12 gallons per minute, the well will be hooked up directly to power from the landowners house. This will provide water to two 5,000 gallon storage cisterns that will gravity feed four troughs, evenly distributed throughout five pastures on 204 acres of his property, serving roughly 60 cow calf pairs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application improved from the previous submission and is very clear.
- The applicant included the well-log and road crossing information, which was very useful.
- This revised application added additional acreage and a trough to further improve upland vegetation, which will also aid in developing a larger grazing management plan.
- The project cost is reasonable.
- Runoff from this area contributes to sediment and poor water quality via small tributaries directly flowing to the Powder. Implementation reduces that runoff.
- The project provides off-stream water for livestock currently utilizing riparian areas of perennial streams that flow into the Powder River. Implementation will protect and improve riparian vegetation and condition.
- The landowner will be able to implement a rotational grazing system to improve upland vegetation and decrease pressure on the riparian area as a result of this project.
- The landowner previously fenced 12 acres to protect riparian habitat.

- The application is well-written with detailed descriptions and complete maps.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

The project includes upland water development and a grazing plan to implement rest-rotation, which has a positive impact on upland and riparian vegetation. The application improved from the last submission. There is a beneficial explanation of alternatives regarding solar and electrical power. The landowner previously fenced 12 acres of riparian habitat to provide a wildlife refuge especially for mule deer. Implementation will improve rangeland health by implementing rotational grazing. Livestock will no longer have access to the stream and irrigation ditch that transports runoff to the Powder River. By eliminating the need for livestock to access the perennial streams that flow directly into the Powder River, streambank stability and riparian vegetation will improve. Water quality will also improve since bacterial inputs will be eliminated. The section of the Powder River below this property would greatly benefit from improved water quality. There is significant ecological merit to warrant funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

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Review Team Recommended Amount

\$48,012

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$48,012

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5031-15951

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower Clear Creek Restoration
(Phase 1)

Applicant: Powder Basin WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$72,014

Total Cost: \$115,014

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Clear Creek is located in eastern Baker County, near the town of Halfway in Pine Valley and is a tributary of Pine Creek, which flows to the Snake River. Clear Creek has been designated as critical bull trout migratory habitat and also hosts a resident population of redband trout. Lower Clear Creek has been subjected to considerable modifications, including: loss of riparian vegetation, channel straightening, barriers to fish passage and excessive sedimentation. During a 30-year flood event in 2010 it became very clear to landowners that the health of their stream system was not adequate to handle these events and improvements were needed. PBWC has been working with six landowners on lower Clear Creek, near the confluence with Pine Creek, to develop restoration designs that improve conditions for native fish and address landowner concerns. This proposal is for improvements to stream health on two properties within the larger six-property project. Elements of the project include: fencing to protect riparian vegetation from livestock browsing, stabilization of failing banks, revegetation of bare banks and placement of fish habitat structures. Partners on the project include two landowners, the Oregon Wildlife Foundation and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Clear Creek is a migration corridor and critical habitat for bull trout.
- The proposed project is located on a part of Clear Creek that will benefit from restoration.
- Vegetation is naturally reestablishing on one of the project properties through natural recruitment.

Concerns

- The application is difficult to understand and seems to have incomplete elements, as a result it is difficult to determine what is being proposed.
- Since there are plenty of old cottonwoods and other vegetation that could be recruited for instream structures, adding habitat structures is not needed.
- Proposed actions do not appear to be the solution to the problem and concerns of the landowners related to Clear Creek flooding.
- Debris removal on the one property is not considered an appropriate cost-share.

Concluding Analysis

It was unclear why the two project properties were combined into one application. The property with riparian fencing and off-stream water elements is likely to respond well with the natural recruitment of trees and shrubs already occurring. This will protect current and potential future vegetation, and have the highest ecological benefit. Installing instream structures on the other project property does not seem to be needed. If application is resubmitted, the applicant is highly encouraged to separate the landowner projects and resubmit with fencing and livestock watering. The landowner could also consider CREP or an OWEB small grant.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5032-15958

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Makin' Things Better on The Powder River

Applicant: Powder Basin WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$171,565

Total Cost: \$341,415

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) The project is on the Powder River, about 2.5 road miles from the town of North Powder. 2) The Powder River is water quality limited for bacteria, DO, temperature, and nutrients. Keeping more water in the river will help with many of the problems. Redband trout use this reach of the Powder for many stages of their life history. Having more water in the river will help them as well. Cattle have unrestricted access to the river. We plan to correct this with a fence. 3) We are moving the point of diversion 4.3 miles downstream, which will automatically leave 5 cfs in the river for that length. We plan to install a fish friendly diversion, and 7040 feet of pipe of various sizes to convert 116 acres of flood irrigation to pivots. The landowner will use the conserved water statute to put a portion of the saved water as an instream right. We will build 3,500 feet of fence to restrict cattle access to the river. 4) Partners are Curt Martin, Gabe Williams RSI, Ken Diebel Diebel Contracting, and the Powder Basin Watershed Council

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The point of diversion (POD) will move 4.3 miles downstream leaving 5 cfs in that section for a significant amount of time.
- The water savings is not just the 4.3 miles mentioned, but closer to 25 miles because there is no other POD after this water user for 21+ miles. This is a significant benefit to fisheries and other aquatic habitat.
- The landowner is willing to pursue the allocation of conserved water statute with Oregon Water Resources Department.
- The process to modify the water rights has started.
- The fish screen will meet ODFW specifications.
- Implementation has significant water quantity benefits.
- This section of the Powder River has high potential to provide habitat because of its sinuosity.
- Outreach potential to the community and local producers is very high.

Concerns

- The ditch will still be used for reasons other than irrigation.

- More detail regarding the length of time in a grazing plan is needed.

Concluding Analysis

The project is located on the Powder River near North Powder. This section of the Powder is water quality limited for bacteria, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and nutrients. Leaving additional water in the Powder will dilute those pollutants. Leaving 5 cfs in the river for 25 miles is a significant watershed benefit. The project will change the POD; install a mainline for the pivots; and leave additional water in the Powder for longer periods of time. A livestock exclusion fence will also be installed to restrict cattle from the river. This project will provide multiple watershed benefits, and will be a positive demonstration for outreach once the project is implemented. This project has significant ecological uplift and the project is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

4 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$171,565

Review Team Conditions

The project completion report must include a grazing plan.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$171,565

Staff Conditions

The project completion report must include a grazing plan.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5033-15959

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Seeking Justus on Bully Creek

Applicant: Malheur WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$47,654

Total Cost: \$62,654

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) The project is on Bully Creek, a tributary of the Malheur River. It is 5 air miles from the Westfall airport, and 42 air miles to Ontario. 2) The stream has down cut 8-10 feet and has no connection to its flood plain. The meadow is dry and the vegetation consists of pasture grasses and weedy species. This contributes to problems with redband trout, spotted frogs, and water quality. DEQ considers Bully Creek to be in the "very poor" water quality category. The agency lists the following parameters as being of concern:-- chlorophyll a-- bacteria-- nutrients-- sediment-- temperature. Functioning stream side vegetation is key to solving many water quality problems. 3) We plan to stabilize 3,500 feet of the existing channel, control bank erosion, gradually raise the water table, improve water quality, and provide aquatic habitat by installing:-- 5 riffles,-- 12 Vertical Post Structures (VPS),-- plant more than 1,000 willow whips with the VPS, and riffles,-- 1,000 feet of rootwads and woody debris. If implemented the project will: • Gradually improve connectivity to the flood plain, • Maintain and improve riparian vegetation, • Enhance aquatic and wildlife habitat. • Capture, store and safely release flood waters, which will, o Reduce erosion, o Return cooler water to the stream o Filter sediment and nutrients. This is Phase I of a multi-phased project. We are treating the upper end of the property first to stabilize the situation. Then we will work down the stream to remove some berms, slope banks, more woody debris, and install many more riffles and VPS's. 4) Project partners are the landowner, Malheur SWCD and Malheur WSC, and Gabe Williams of Resource Specialists Inc.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- A new landowner wants to improve riparian condition and function in an area of Bully Creek that was severely downcut during a high-flow event many years ago.
- Proposed actions are relatively inexpensive ways to increase the water table and improve vegetative conditions. The ecological benefit is high for the cost.
- Restoration is planned as a phased approach. This phase I does not need bank sloping but future phases further downstream will.
- Once phase I is completed enrollment in CREP is a possibility, which will add protective measures to OWEB's investment.
- Projects implemented in similar systems and conditions have shown improvement to the floodplain.
- Access to the project would enable agencies to survey for redd counts or other data collection.
- Water quality benefits from proposed restoration are significant.

- A wider riparian area will allow for greater fire mitigation.

Concerns

- More information is needed regarding future grazing after the two season of rest are implemented.

Concluding Analysis

The project will improve stream function in Bully Creek and reconnect the floodplain. The stream downcut 8 to 10 feet from a high-flow event and is now a dry meadow. This project is the first phase of planned restoration for Bully Creek. Implementation will gradually improve floodplain connectivity, riparian vegetation and aquatic, and wildlife habitat. Stabilizing the downcut area and improving riparian conditions will enhance habitat for redband trout and Columbia spotted frog. Project implementation will expand the wetted width of the riparian area and provide water quality benefits.

Access to upper Bully Creek on private property has been challenging in the past, and this new landowner provides a potential opportunity to access to the creek for redband surveys, water quality monitoring or other collected data. The project has many watershed benefits with significant ecological merit.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

2 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$47,654

Review Team Conditions

A grazing management plan must be included with the project completion report.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$47,654

Staff Conditions

A grazing management plan must be included with the project completion report.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5034-15961

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Crane Prairie: Forest Health, Aspen Restoration and Grazing Management

Applicant: Malheur WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$117,875

Total Cost: \$198,166

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) Project is located in Crane Prairie on private property that covers the headwaters of Crane Creek in Grant County. It is about 24 miles as the crow flies from downtown Prairie City. 2) Lodge pole pine is invading 60 acres of aspen stands and 90 acres of forest stands. The invasion is degrading forest health, wildlife habitat, and could foster insect and disease and disastrous wildfire. 2a) Livestock grazing is damaging the riparian area adjacent to the headwaters of Crane Creek.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project addresses multiple resource concerns, including aspen, wet meadow, conifer invasion, and grazing enhancement.
- Conifer invasion from lodgepole and juniper into aspen stands is being addressed as well as conifer encroachment to the wet meadow.
- The lodgepole thinning will generate material for the buck-and-pole fence and debris fence.
- The meadow is the headwaters for Crane Creek and is bull trout habitat.
- There is great diversity with all the proposed restoration actions. The landowner is willing to address various resource concerns.
- Aspen protection is needed in this area. Unit costs for all the various project components seem reasonable.
- The grazing management will also include developing a spring, trough and cross fencing. There are multiple resource benefits in the proposed actions.

Concerns

- The proposed 8-foot buck-and-pole fence is quite large and it is unclear whether it is truly needed. However, while a wire fence may be an alternative, it would most likely not deter elk.

Concluding Analysis

The project is located south of Prairie City in Crane Prairie. The landowner recently purchased the property, which was previously overgrazed and had no grazing management. The proposed actions are

comprehensive by treating aspen, providing grazing enhancement, and improving the wet-meadow complex and upland forest health issues. Grazing management will be improved and perennial bunchgrasses should benefit from this. The lodgepole thinning will generate significant material to use for aspen stand protection. Debris fencing near the wet meadow and other areas can also be implemented since it is cost-prohibitive to fence all of the stands. The project will result in improved watershed and upland health. This proposal has numerous watershed benefits and is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$117,875

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$117,875

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5035-15963

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Crippling Juniper

Applicant: Malheur WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$146,040

Total Cost: \$187,165

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) Our project is about 6 miles from Juntura Oregon., and encompasses the majority of Cripple Creek Gulch. 2) This is Phase III of an ongoing effort to improve range health, combat weeds (juniper and other species), improve sage grouse habitat, and improve riparian vegetation.3) We propose to remove juniper from 1,300 acres with chainsaws Approximately 1,080 acres are low density (Stage I) and 220 acres are medium density (Late Stage I/early Stage II). The slash will be cut to below 4 feet and the debris from 220 medium density acres will be machine piled and burned at the appropriate time. We plan to accelerate riparian recovery by strategically planting willow whips on Cripple Creek and Chimney Creek. We will focus our planting on 1.25 acres of wetter areas, and plant around 480 plants. The plantings will be protected from browsing by placing juniper carcasses around them and cages where appropriate. While grazing management on this property is excellent, there is room for improvement. The problem is distribution. The cattle graze the bottoms and level areas too hard and under use the steeper areas at the top of the property. The owner dug a well and uses solar power to pump water to a trough. The goal was to attract cattle to the top of the pasture. This has worked, but they need to install a cistern for storage. We propose to install a storage tank, add 4,000 feet of pipe to feed more troughs to supply water to other pastures. Even with the water trough, cattle still congregate on the lower slopes. The second solution the landowner is implementing is building 10,500 feet of pasture cross-fence. 4) Project partners are the landowner, Linda Bentz, and the Malheur WSC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project complements other restoration implemented on this property.
- The landowner has been very proactive in improving rangeland health and riparian enhancement on both the North and South Fork of the Malheur River, and removed thousands of acres of juniper.
- Removing the juniper will aid in recharging the streams and help improve the wetted areas of the riparian zone. This will aide late-season sage-grouse brood-rearing.
- In addition to juniper removal on 1,300 acres, the applicant will be planting willows and cottonwoods along Chimney and Cripple Creek.
- This is critical mule deer habitat and this restoration benefits that habitat.
- The well has been utilized in a positive manner for livestock watering.

Concerns

- The application does not mention reseeding the burn piles, which needs to be included in the project design.

Concluding Analysis

Proposed project builds on previous restoration investment on this property. The landowner has done extensive improvements over thousands of acres and also along the Malheur River. This willing landowner has a significant amount of acres and demonstrates a stewardship ethics. They are clearly demonstrating that they want watershed improvements throughout their property. Planting willows and cottonwoods will help accelerate riparian recovery. The project is comprehensive by including juniper removal, riparian enhancement and grazing management enhancement with the addition of cross fencing and water storage. There is significant ecological uplift in this project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

7 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$146,040

Review Team Conditions

Seed the area underneath machine burn piles, and provide a juniper management plan.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$146,040

Staff Conditions

Seed the area underneath machine burn piles, and provide a juniper management plan.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5036-15968

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Protecting Redband on the Middle Willow Creek

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$123,102

Total Cost: \$173,882

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) Nestled between the community of Ironside and the Malheur Reservoir along Willow Creek is the headquarters for Wilks Oregon ranch. On this portion of the ranch, 2 miles of Willow Creek flows through the property. There are 525 irrigated acres irrigated by four centerpivots supplied by Willow Creek providing a zero-runoff irrigation practice. 2) The lack of fish screens on the Willow Creek system has contributed to the degrading fish habitat, making the recovery of the limited Redband trout population increasingly difficult. ODFW has determined that a fish screen is needed. 3) We will install an ODFW approved fish screen to reduce fish mortality in the creek. This will happen on the landowners' property by insertion into an existing irrigation water supply pipe. Part of the reason for the in-line location is the fact that the stream diversion is actually on a neighbor's property. To avoid any potential future legal or OWRD issues, the site was chosen to construct the fish screen on Wilks property. 4) Partners in this project are the Malheur SWCD, Wilks Ranch and ODFW (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Redband trout are present in this section of the Middle Fork of the Malheur and will benefit from this project.
- Four cleanouts were added to the previous design and are needed because the bypass is over 400 feet. Cleanouts have worked in other similar locations.

Concerns

- The project expense seems high for an intermittent need, which limits the potential cost benefit of this investment. The fish screen is designed for 14 cfs, however the flow during the irrigation season is significantly less.
- The location of the fish screen results in an extremely long bypass.
- Application would benefit from more information to understand the story about actual redband population numbers in the stream.
- The watershed benefit is not commensurate with the overall project cost.

Concluding Analysis

The project was previously submitted and not recommended for funding. Currently there are no fish screens in this section of Willow Creek above the Malheur Reservoir. The previous landowner began a channel modification project on this property and the current landowner completed that effort. As a result of that channel redesign, a new consolidated point-of-diversion was installed that triggered the need to for a fish screen. However, the fish screen is only needed for approximately five weeks each year. As a result, it is difficult to determine cost benefit for this watershed investment. This would be the only proposed fish screen in this system, so there is benefit to providing potential outreach to other irrigators. This installation could lead to future implementation on other diversions. While the application highlights positive benefits for proposed restoration, there are insufficient watershed benefits for the investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5037-15975

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Implementation HC18

Applicant: Harney SWCD

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Harney

OWEB Request: \$58,391

Total Cost: \$73,668

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed project is located on a 640 acre field of private land in Harney County that has a letter of intent to enroll in the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) to protect sage-grouse. The enrollee (HC-18) has a Site Specific plan that is in the process of being developed by the Harney Soil and Water Conservation District (HSWCD). The location has been identified as Preliminary General Habitat for sage-grouse and lies within an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) focal area habitat for sage-grouse. This project involves implementation of 2 conservation measures included in the CCAA site specific plan, addressing threats to sage-grouse. The threats to sage-grouse include: loss of sagebrush habitat due to lack of fire and associated conifer encroachment and unmanaged and/or improper grazing occurring in the riparian areas. To address the loss of sagebrush habitat due to conifer encroachment, conservation measures include cutting the conifers using hand tools. Heavily invaded (Phase II) conifer infestations will require slash piling, using large equipment such as excavators, and the slash piles will need to be burned. To address the improper grazing in the riparian areas, an off-stream watering facility will be installed. The water will be pumped from the creek and piped from the creek to a tire trough. The availability of water outside of the riparian area will encourage more even and efficient utilization of forage in the uplands. Project partners include: HSWCD, the private landowner, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The site visit indicated that the creek channel is in good condition and has adequate vegetation.
- Removing the juniper will improve the opportunity for sage-grouse brood-rearing in the riparian area.

Concerns

- The application has inconsistent acreage for phase I and II juniper listed between the objectives, application narrative, and budget.
- The application needs to provide a better context of the overall watershed, drainages, and complementary efforts.
- The budget is unclear. The requested cost per-acre for phase 1 juniper seems too high while the requested amount for phase II juniper removal seems too low.

- The application would be strengthened by additional explanation of the spring development and trough, and inclusion of maps depicting topography, slope, and vegetation.
- It is unclear if the spring would be protected by fencing.

Concluding Analysis

This is potentially a good project. However, the application is unclear and difficult to understand. The landowner has a letter of intent for the CCAA. If the project is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to provide a clear map, more detail on the spring development, explanation on project costs to understand and how they were determined, and consistent information on acreage. While the project will improve sage-grouse habitat and potentially has very positive benefits, it is not ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5038-15982

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Destination Desolation Water Quality Improvement

Applicant: Owyhee WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$157,877

Total Cost: \$286,930

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project is located approximately 22 miles northwest of Jordan Valley, Oregon, near Jordan Craters, and consists of 86 acres of flood irrigated meadow cropland that directly borders both Cow Creek and Upper Cow Lakes. The Cow Lakes area is considered an important Shrub-Steppe Avian Conservation area; home to several thousand waterfowl and over one hundred shorebirds seasonally. This project is the first phase in an irrigation management plan on 374 acres to improve water quality, late summer sage-grouse habitat, as well as habitat area for several thousand other avian species. Current irrigative practices expend tailwater runoff containing excess sediment, nutrients, and bacteria directly into Cow Creek and Cow Lakes. Varying topography within the fields also gives rise to pooling/ponding, creating stagnant water areas which encourage mosquito breeding and thus increase the risk for West Nile. In addition, livestock are also fed and pastured on the project site during the late fall and winter months, which further increases the bacteria inputs into Cow Creek and Cow Lakes with the first spring flood irrigation. The proposed solution for this first phase is to convert 86 acres of flood irrigated meadow cropland to border irrigation. Border Irrigation is designed to flush water over a near level field in a short period of time. The borders are raised beds constructed in the direction of the field's slope, releasing water from the field's high end, and guided down slope as a shallow sheet that spreads uniformly. Water flow is turned off mid to three-quarters way down the field as to allow water to reach fields end and no further; thus, eliminating tailwater runoff into surrounding water bodies. Project partners for this project include NRCS and Trout Unlimited.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Border irrigation is an efficient way to irrigate. There is a high water quality benefit by reducing or eliminating runoff caused by flood irrigation.
- Border irrigation was successfully implemented on a previously funded OWEB project in the Jordan Valley area.
- The project site is adjacent to Cow Lake, which is an important flyway for waterfowl and shorebirds. It is also surrounded by core sage-grouse habitat.
- Eliminating ponding and pooling of water caused by flood irrigation benefits water quality and decreases the potential for West Nile virus, which previously caused mortality in sage-grouse in the Jordan Valley area. This is important since the project is located in core sage-grouse habitat.
- Landowner and partner support is demonstrated by cost-share

Concerns

- The project has a high per-acre cost, but is the best method to improve irrigation and avian habitat. The field configuration makes it unsuitable for pivots or wheel line sprinkler irrigation, and leveling the field is very labor intensive.
- It is not clear if livestock have access to Cow Lake.

Concluding Analysis

This project is located on 86 acres near Jordan Craters, bordering Cow Creek and upper Cow Lake near Jordan Craters. This very sparsely populated area has had few restoration projects. Implementation will result in improved water quality and habitat for sage-grouse. Cow Lakes is located in the Shrub-Steppe Avian Conservation Area and is an important flyway for waterfowl and shore birds. The project is surrounded by core sage-grouse habitat. Current flood irrigation results in ponding that creates mosquito habitat. In 2006 there was an outbreak of West Nile virus with confirmed mortality to sage-grouse. Border irrigation eliminates ponding caused by flood irrigation. The field configuration is not conducive to sprinkler irrigation and, therefore, border irrigation is the most optimal method. This project is phase 1 of a 374-acre management plan to improve water quality. The project has significant benefit to sage-grouse and avian habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

15 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$157,877

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$157,877

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5039-15983

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: West Nile Mile Water Quality Improvement

Applicant: Owyhee WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$162,084

Total Cost: \$339,939

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) The West Nile Mile project site is located approximately 29 miles southwest of Jordan Valley, Oregon in the community of Arock, with project boundaries lying directly on Jordan Creek. 2) This project site contains approximately 112 acres of flood irrigated cropland which expends tailwater runoff containing excess sediment, nutrients, and bacteria directly into Jordan Creek. The fields within this project also contain several low spots; creating pooling/ponding and generating stagnant water areas, which elicit mosquito breeding and thus increase the risk for West Nile virus. Water conveyance to this project site is done through a series of open canals which flow from the headgates approximately 135 feet above the fields, down a steep hill to its deliverance points. This steep gradient creates a significant amount of washout, increasing the amount of sediment in the canal system, as well as creating ponding at its base. Livestock are also fed and pastured on the project area during the late fall and winter months, which increases bacteria inputs to Jordan Creek with the first spring flood irrigation. 3) The proposed solution for this project is to convert 112 acres of flood irrigated meadow cropland to gravity fed sprinkler irrigation through the installation of 4200 feet of 10-inch pipe, one Zimmatic Pivot system, and 240 magpie sprinklers. The project will also abandon existing open canals, and reroute water conveyance through 1900 feet of 15-inch pipe from the headgates to a central diversion station, which will supply both the pivot and magpie sprinklers. The conversion from flood to sprinkler irrigation will eliminate tailwater runoff into Jordan Creek, and eliminate pooling/ponding in the low areas throughout each field. Rerouting and piping the canals will eliminate washout and pooling occurring near deliverance points at the base of surrounding hillsides. 4) Partners for this project include NRCS and Trout Unlimited

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project location adjacent to Jordan Creek will have significant water quality benefits.
- The proposed irrigation method is the most optimal for the field configuration.
- In addition to water quality benefits, the project is surrounded by core sage-grouse habitat that will benefit from the project.
- Converting to sprinkler irrigation will eliminate ponding caused by flood irrigation that promotes mosquito habitat, which will reduce the potential for West Nile virus mortality in sage-grouse.
- Piping the ditch will have significant water quality benefits.

Concerns

- Since the irrigation configuration will be modified, the applicant needs to contact OWRD to ensure that there are sufficient water rights.
- If the point of diversion is changed, ODFW may require fish passage requirements.

Concluding Analysis

The project will have significant water quality benefits since it is located on Jordan Creek. Ponding will be eliminated by converting from flood to sprinkler irrigation. Sage-grouse mortality caused by West Nile virus occurred in Jordan Valley in 2006. Traditional flood irrigation resulted in ponding, which created optimal mosquito habitat. Project implementation will improve water quality and sage-grouse habitat. Sprinkler irrigation will reduce runoff, which is estimated at 20 to 30 tons per acre or 2,340 to 3,520 annual tons from this 112-acre field. Piping the ditch also eliminates sediment transport to Jordan Creek. It was also suggested that OWEB not fund some of the smaller diameter pipe that accesses the individual sprinklers as this is more appropriate funding for the landowner. Overall, this project has significant ecological merit.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced with Conditions

Review Team Priority

12 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$149,236

Review Team Conditions

Verify water rights.

Remove the 2 and 3-inch pipe costs from OWEB budget.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund Reduced with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$149,236

Staff Conditions

Verify water rights.

Remove the 2 and 3-inch pipe costs from OWEB budget.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5040-15984

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Charbonneaus Revenge
Medusahead wipeout

Applicant: Owyhee WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$152,484

Total Cost: \$205,065

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) The Charbonneau's Revenge Medusahead Wipeout project is located approximately 20 miles southwest of Jordan Valley in the community of Danner, and consists of 2,128 acres of sagebrush steppe rangeland that is bordered by both Jordan Creek and Cow Creeks. The site profile includes elevations ranging from 4200-4400 feet, with average precipitation of 8-12 inches per year. Terrain is very rocky, comprised with dense basalt formations, and soils in the range of silty-loam. The project site, located within a 2 HUC priority area, with Greater sage-grouse and Redband trout being the species of concern, is the first phase of a rangeland management plan on 6,729 acres to restore plant communities, and improve habitat and forage quality for a number of species. 2) Medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*) and Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) have extensively invaded this project site and now dominate the plant community, both within project bounds and on bordering BLM lands. Annual grass invasion has placed considerable strain on this section of sagebrush steppe rangeland, and in some sections, has created thatches so dense that all other vegetation has been eradicated. 3) The work proposed for this project includes aerial application of herbicide in in the fall of 2018, followed by broadcast seeding of a drought tolerant, introduced seed mix in fall of 2019. A grazing management plan has also been included to allow for proper rest rotations and establishment of plant seedlings. 4) Project partners include Jordan Valley CWMA, NRCS, and Trout Unlimited.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located in a winter grazing pasture and, therefore, would not need to be deferred once the area is sprayed.
- Since this is a winter-grazed pasture, this BLM pasture would not utilized during a busy season.

Concerns

- It is unclear if *Pseudomonas* is approved for use in Oregon by ODA. If it is not approved by ODA, it should be removed from the project.
- The application only proposes one application of Plateau herbicide to be sprayed. In order to effectively treat medusahead, two aerial spray applications would most likely be needed, especially given the severity of medusahead infestation noted at the site visit.

- Given the density of the medusahead, there is no certainty that Plateau can penetrate the heavy thatch.
- The proposal recommends using 10 gallons of water per application. Given the density of the medusahead thatch layer, it is likely 20 gallons is needed to penetrate the thatch.
- It is not clear how much of the seeding will be aerial broadcast or ground broadcast, and how much will be applied with a rangeland drill.
- Seed costs appear to be on the low side, and seeding rate is inconsistent. The applicant may not be calculating for the application cost.
- A more holistic approach to treating the site would include developing upland water to improve vegetation and a rotational grazing system.
- The grazing plan lacked essential detail.
- The proposed timeline was unclear.

Concluding Analysis

While the site visit confirmed the need for treatment, the application does not seem well thought-out and is premature. Proposed actions were not technically sound. The proposed treatment of spraying and seeding may not be successful without also incorporating a management change. The applicant may want to consider including upland watering and improving the rotational grazing for a more holistic outcome. If application is resubmitted, it should include a grazing plan; and the seed and seed application needs to be clarified. The applicant should consider partnering with BLM if this is a priority area.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5041-15986

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Wallowa River Restoration Project

Applicant: Wallowa Resources

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: \$225,000

Total Cost: \$845,104

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Upper Wallowa River project area encompasses approximately 11/2 miles of the Wallowa River and West Fork Wallowa River, beginning near the confluence of BC Creek and flowing into Wallowa Lake. This section of the river is primarily managed for recreation with a mix of small property ownership, private houses and cabins, public and private camping areas, small businesses, and Wallowa Lake State Park. This area is a large attraction for tourists during summer months and important to the Wallowa County economy. The project area provides important spawning and rearing area for salmonid species, as a direct input to Wallowa Lake, including Kokanee salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) and Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*). Natural floodplain function along the reach has been degraded by anthropogenic encroachment and development, thereby reducing the habitat quality and quality. This restoration project aims to enhance and restore habitat for kokanee salmon spawning and all life stages of bull trout while protecting private and public property from the effects of catastrophic flooding by maintaining or improving bank stability. Additionally the project aims to capitalize on its location to create significant opportunities for outreach to the general public; the project location hosts nearly 500,000 people per year. Project partners include the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, the Nez Perce Tribe, Wallowa Resources, and several private parties. This particular consortium of stakeholders creates an opportunity for significant outreach to a diverse group of Oregonians.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Implementation will improve kokanee and bull trout habitat. Kokanee may use this new channel for spawning. The channel will be restored to its natural condition from prior to the construction of the state park and surrounding infrastructure.
- The design team is engaging stakeholders.
- The project will be highly visible and has potential for positive outreach.
- Two previous OWEB-funded technical assistance projects provided funding for this design.

Concerns

- Nez Perce Tribe is inaccurately listed as a partner.

- The budget lacks essential detail and is just one lump sum for the OWEB request. There are no bids or documentation to better understand the requested \$225,000 from OWEB.
- It is unclear whether proposed activities benefit recreation facilities management more than providing a habitat improvement project.
- Bull trout spawning near the bridge has not been documented.
- Match listed in application has unclear connections to the success of the proposed project.
- Application would benefit from detailed project design information.

Concluding Analysis

There could be watershed benefits to bull trout and kokanee habitat from this project; however, based on the application the watershed benefit for the cost is unclear. If this application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to expand project partnership support; provide a detailed budget with unit costs including anticipated hours, and equipment time; and a more complete description of proposed work to better understand the project. Also, additional detail on bull trout habitat and spawning will be beneficial. Implementation could have a very positive outreach message due the project's location at Wallowa Lake State Park.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5042-15987

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Island In The Stream

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$94,993

Total Cost: \$235,702

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) Island In The Stream is .26 miles north of Owyhee Junction, 19 miles from Ontario, in the North Alkali Creek-Snake River Watershed (1705010311). 2) Furrow irrigation on 182 acres with 4 different fields draining directly into Bishop Drain (Owy 301), which enters the Owyhee River, then the Snake River resulting in excess irrigation water that is sediment laden with nutrients. The Malheur SWCD calls this drain Owyhee 301 drain and has been sampling the drain since 2008.3) Proposed solution is to convert Fields: 1, 2, and 3 143 acres of furrow irrigation to a 133 acre center pivot with a swing arm and to have zero runoff on 3 fields, with field 3 having 3 acres left for wildlife. Field 4, will have 2 acres converted to sprinkle, with 29.4 acres remaining in furrow.4) Project partners include landowner, Malheur SWCD, DEQ 319 monitoring, and Owyhee Irrigation District.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project will be complementary to the recently funded project also on the Bishop Drain.
- Implementation will have significant water quality benefits in the Owyhee and Snake Rivers.
- Data provided with the application indicates that the amount of phosphorus and total suspended sediment decreased as a result of prior project implementation in the Bishop Drain drainshed.

Concerns

- The application includes two pumps and does not clearly describe how the pumps were to function.
- There are two ponds and it is unclear which pond will have an installed pump.
- It unclear whether irrigating over the lateral is necessary or if there is an alternative method. The sprinkler should be programmed to shut off over the lateral.
- The application references a lift pump for field 3 and a lift pump for fields 1 and 2. It is unclear why this is needed because all of these fields are on the same pivot.
- Since this project is adjacent to the Bishop Drain project, it is possible that the design for this project may need to be altered. As a result, the Bishop Drain sediment retention pond should be implemented prior to this project to ensure likelihood for success.

Concluding Analysis

The project has significant potential to improve water quality in the Bishop Drain and the Owyhee River. Bishop Drain is one of the drains contributing large amounts of sediment and runoff to the Owyhee River. This application, however, lacks critical detail and appears incomplete. It is difficult to understand the proposed design and to follow the application. If this application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to provide comprehensive project detail and alternative designs.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5043-15990

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Three Fingers Fuels Reduction and
Grazing Research

Applicant: Owyhee WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$88,951

Total Cost: \$360,210

Application was determined to be ineligible prior to review.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5044-15993

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Mockingbird One

Applicant: Malheur WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$79,423

Total Cost: \$163,636

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1. The Mockingbird One project is located in Harper, Oregon along the Malheur River. 2. Water quality improvement in the Malheur Basin is one of the top restoration priorities. Water quality improvement is achieved through on-farm irrigation infrastructure improvements and management. Malheur Watershed Council in cooperation with irrigation districts and private landowners has been systematically improving water quality through irrigation system conversions over the past 17 years across the Malheur Basin. 3. The Mockingbird One project is the first phase in a three phase project to convert 206 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation. This proposal (phase I) will convert 31 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation through the installation of 2 pivot systems, solid set sprinklers, and related irrigation infrastructure. 4. Project partners include Vale Irrigation District, landowner and Malheur Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located in the Harper area where there are few previously implemented water quality projects. Expanding projects here is a positive step to improve water quality in this area of the Malheur River.
- Landowner support is demonstrated by match for the project. The project is well leveraged.
- Budget has reasonable costs.
- Implementation will provide very high water quality benefits.
- Application addresses previous review team comments.
- The application is easy to read and the maps were very helpful.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

The application was previously submitted and included six pivots. It was not recommended for funding and the applicant was encouraged to consider a smaller project with the next submission. The

landowner made the decision on which pivots to include in Phase 1, and these pivots were selected based on the challenges with irrigation at this location. The resulting water quality benefits are significant due to the project's location directly on the Malheur River. Current flood irrigation practices contribute direct runoff into the Malheur River, especially during the first irrigation cycle when the irrigated acres are used as winter-feeding areas. Implementation will have positive landowner outreach to other irrigators who may be considering converting their irrigation systems. The 3-inch pipe that will irrigate the 3-acre corner should be the landowner's responsibility, since this is small acreage. The proposed project has substantial water quality benefits.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced with Conditions

Review Team Priority

14 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$78,286

Review Team Conditions

Remove the cost of the 3-inch lines to the corners plus the associated grant administration.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund Reduced with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$78,286

Staff Conditions

Remove the cost of the 3-inch lines to the corners plus the associated grant administration.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5045-15996

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Vista View Phase II

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$78,327

Total Cost: \$98,578

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) 6 miles west of Ontario, at the top of the North Canal next to the irrigation siphon that runs across the valley.2) Vista View Phase 2: Additional 1380 feet of 24 inch pipe, and a pressure reducing /sustaining valve station with OID installation, plus cost increase of pipe is needed to bury lateral 38.7 to Morgan Avenue. Vista View 217-5045: OID will install 10,500 feet of various lengths of 12, 21, and 24-inch pipe to bury 38.7 lateral from Morgan Avenue to the Shoestring Canal with 7 turnouts with 7 flowmeters, 1 - 12-inch emergency spill valve, 1 automated cleaning screen that will have a sensor monitor built in that will be able to measure the water height in existing earthen canal that will be connected to the automation network at the irrigation office in case of power outage or storm events. A employee of the irrigation district will open the emergency spillway into the lower Shoestring in case of storm events. An automated cleaning screen will reduce sediment from entering the pressurized system.3) With the change in design of the pipeline to handle storm events, we need an additional 1380 feet of 24 inch pipe that will take the pipeline from Morgan Avenue to the top of the North Canal. We also need a pressure reducing/sustaining valve station when we added the additional slope and length added into the pressure system, along with increase of pipe cost due to the hurricanes down south damaging the manufacturing plant for pipe. The cost of pipe has jumped in price 18% to date.4) Owyhee Irrigation District

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Owyhee Irrigation District (OID) has a proven track record and there is confidence in their ability to implement this project.
- The project cost is reasonable. The applicant is requesting funds to cover the increased cost of pipe and the addition of a pressure-reducing valve. Price increases are a result of recent hurricanes and an increase in petroleum-based products.
- Landowners served by this lateral will have the opportunity to upgrade their irrigation systems. Converting from flood to sprinkler irrigation will result in improved water quality benefits.
- Since the Vista View lateral ends at the Malheur Experiment Station, there is opportunity for positive outreach.
- The requested pressure-reducing valve will enable OID to turn off water and better control the system in the event of emergencies. OID needs a way to control the system, which is why OID should be responsible for the pressure reducing valve.

Concerns

- Application would be strengthened by complete design and budget information.
- The pressure-reducing valve should not be charged to OWEB because this is an operational or maintenance component and that cost should be the responsibility of OID.

Concluding Analysis

The Vista View Pipeline project is located six miles west of Ontario. Owyhee Irrigation District's (OID) earthen lateral 38.7 currently supplies 16 cfs of irrigation water to 640 contiguous acres of highly erodible soils. The project will enable landowners to convert from flood to sprinkler or drip irrigation. Once the pipeline is installed, NRCS will provide cost-share for on-farm irrigation efficiencies. The current irrigation is furrow-flood utilizing open-earthen and concrete delivery systems. Erosion rates are 10 to 14 tons per-acre (TPA) or 6,400 to 8,960 total annual tons.

The project was submitted in the fall 2016 grant cycle and was scheduled for implementation in 2017. However, the price of pipe increased by 18 to 20% due to hurricanes in the South and reduced refinery capacity. The cost increase resulted in an unexpected budget shortfall. The increased cost of pipe could not be anticipated. The takeout from Morgan Avenue was changed to the North Canal because of concerns to regulate emergency spillway at the bottom of the pipeline. OID needs a better way to control the system, and should be responsible for the pressure-reducing valve and the 1,380 feet of increased pipe due to the take out change. Overall, this project has significant water quality merit and should be funded this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced with Conditions

Review Team Priority

8 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$38,965

Review Team Conditions

Remove the 1,380 feet of pipe and pressure-reducing valve from the OWEB budget plus the associated grant administration.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Staff discussed the project with the applicant. It was determined that pipe prices increased further since

the application was submitted. Staff agreed to an increase of 21% for the cost of pipe.

Staff Recommendation

Fund Reduced with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$38,965

Staff Conditions

Remove the 1,380 feet of pipe and pressure-reducing valve from the OWEB budget plus the associated grant administration.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5046-15997

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower Grande Ronde Watershed
Noxious Weed Management

Applicant: Wallowa Resources

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: \$48,864

Total Cost: \$130,364

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Wallowa Canyonlands Partnership uses integrated weed management strategies to reduce the impact of noxious weeds in Northeast Oregon. In this project we will reduce the size and density of yellow starthistle, rush skeletonweed and other high priority weeds in the Lower Grande Ronde River watershed, located in Wallowa County. Project partners include private landowners, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, and Bureau of Land Management.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This is a well-written proposal that provides significant detail.
- Coordination between private landowners and federal partners is evident.
- A ground inventory for yellow starthistle and rush skeletonweed will provide valuable information on satellite populations.
- The 120,000-acre aerial inventory will enable satellite populations of skeletonweed and yellow starthistle in inaccessible steep, canyonlands to be located and targeted for treatment.
- There are three different seed mixes provided for various treatment scenarios.
- Herbicide rates are provided for the targeted weed along with approximate acreage to be treated. The application also described prevention methods.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by information on whether past grant objectives were met, and additional information on the results of these previous investments.
- Since TordonTM is a persistent chemical, the application would benefit from some explanation on why it was chosen and whether alternatives were considered. However, it was also noted that TordonTM is very effective and appropriate for use on spurge.

Concluding Analysis

The project involves multiple landowners and public partners, and targets weed sites in remote locations with very steep canyonlands that are difficult to access. Some of the treatment area is extremely remote

and requires significant effort and expense on a per-acre basis to successfully locate and treat weeds. This application from Wallowa Resources continues an ongoing effort to target and treat noxious weeds in a remote landscape. Wallowa Resources has successfully coordinated this effort with private landowners, Forest Service, and the BLM for the last several years. In addition, there is coordination with the State of Washington to limit cross-state infestations, which occurred with starthistle some years ago. Treating the targeted noxious weeds will help maintain native plant communities and prevent the establishment of invasive annuals. Protecting the native bunchgrass plant community will maintain wildlife habitat and prevent shallow-rooted non-native annuals from establishing. This on-going work by Wallowa Resources has proven to be successfully implemented.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$48,864

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$48,864

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5047-16011

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Circling Above the Hyline

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$60,608

Total Cost: \$208,076

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1. The Circling Above the Hyline project is located about 12 miles north of Ontario, Oregon and consists of approximately 72.5 acres of irrigable cropland. Circling Above the Hyline drains into the Hyline Canal (which drains into Sheperd Gulch) to be used by other farmers or spilled into Sheperd Gulch and into the Snake River. Sediments and nutrients that wash off fields are passed onto the downstream users and contribute to overall water quality impairments. The Hyline Bench Watershed is located from about 12 miles north of Ontario, Oregon, west of OR Highway 201 almost to Weiser, Idaho and consists of approximately 3500 acres of irrigable cropland. The entire area is in Malheur County. 2. Most of the sediment, nutrients, and bacteria in Sheperd Gulch come from polluted irrigation return flows or livestock access to surface water. Historically farmers in the area fertilize their land and a residual amount of chemicals, e-coli and nutrients can be carried off the field with the runoff from flood irrigation. This farm is fairly typical and currently using 100% surface irrigation. 3. By installing two (2) partial swipe center pivots with the accompanying bubbler, pipeline, pumps and flowmeters the landowner will be able to achieve a zero water runoff practice that will enhance the downstream water quality. 4. The partners for this project are the landowner, Malheur County SWCD, NRCS and Owyhee Irrigation District.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located in a priority focus area for ODA and NRCS.
- This project site has slopes that are steep and contribute to high sediment and nutrient runoff flowing directly into a feedlot.
- Converting from flood irrigation to two pivots will have significant water quality improvement.
- Implementation will eliminate runoff and erosion, which will improve water quality.
- Owyhee Irrigation District (OID) will also pipe 3,590 feet of irrigation lateral adding positive water quality benefits.
- Project is well leveraged by match.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the water rights are sufficient to cover the configuration of the new irrigation.

Concluding Analysis

The application was previously submitted and not recommended for funding. This application provides clearer detail. The project is located in the Hyline Bench Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) priority area. Runoff from this area eventually flows into Shepard's Gulch and onto the Snake River nearby. This area is now a focus area for NRCS where other OWEB projects were recently implemented. The priority area was determined as a result of on-going agricultural drain monitoring by Malheur SWCD funded by OWEB and DEQ. The project site has steep slopes and runoff can be significant. OID will also be piping the lateral where the takeout is adding to the water quality benefits. The main concern with the project is whether there are sufficient water rights to cover the new irrigation system covered by the pivots, which will need to be verified with OWRD. There are significant water quality benefits from this project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

11 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$60,608

Review Team Conditions

Prior to the release of funds, the Grantee must verify with WRD that there are sufficient water rights to cover the area under the pivots.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$60,608

Staff Conditions

Prior to the release of funds, the Grantee must verify with WRD that there are sufficient water rights to cover the area under the pivots.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5048-16012

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control Phase III

Applicant: Tri-Cnty Coop Weed Mgmt Area

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Union

OWEB Request: \$25,500

Total Cost: \$65,500

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board has supported Tri-County Cooperative Weed Management Area's Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control project for several years. This project is an ongoing treatment control of leafy spurge in the riparian and upland areas of the Upper Grande Ronde located in Union County. Noxious weeds adversely affect watershed function by decreasing native plant diversity, increasing sedimentation, and decreasing water quality. The detrimental impacts of noxious weeds in the Upper Grande Ronde has motivated Tri-County CWMA to lead the coordinated effort in managing invasive species within the river corridor. The main species of concern are leafy spurge and spotted knapweed, due to their limited abundance in Union County and the negative impacts on local ranching communities. Control of these species will take several years of continuous treatments. Looking over recent photo points, Tri-County has seen remarkable progress in the area. Phase III of the Upper Grande Ronde project will reinforce the progress made in the previous years as well as achieve at least 60% of target species within the project area controlled after fall of 2018 with help from landowners, Confederate Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), and the United States Forest Service. The proposed work to take place is surveying of over 26,000 acres and treating leafy spurge and spotted knapweed with herbicides to prepare the land for the extensive re-channeling that will take place in 2018 as part of a project conducted by CTUIR and Grande Ronde Model Watershed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application provides before-and-after pictures that document previous success.
- The applicant has a proven track record implementing projects in this geographic area over a long period of time.
- The project is trying to address specific noxious weeds before they spread further in the riparian corridor.
- This effort is complementary to other restoration projects nearby. Future in-stream projects will have significant ground disturbance that will result in the probability for future weed establishment. Therefore, treating the targeted weeds before they reach those sites is important.
- This is a proactive approach to help contain infestations. It is providing a critical service in a difficult topography.
- This is a long-standing project with a significant cost-benefit for the investment.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified for this project.

Concluding Analysis

Tri-County CWMA previously received several OWEB grants. OWEB funding is targeting weed treatment in riparian areas of the upper Grande Ronde. Without OWEB funding, Tri-County CWMA would be unable to treat these sites adjacent to anadromous fish habitat. The Bird Track Springs Rechannelization project will disturb significant amount of streambank and increase the potential for weed infestation. This application provides clear goals and is part of an on-going programmatic effort treating spurge, spotted knapweed, and meadow hawkweed. Controlling weeds along the riparian areas of the upper Grande Ronde is positive from wildlife and fisheries perspectives. While weeds are never eradicated, it is important to keep infestations in check. The ecological benefits are to maintain native plant communities by preventing invasive annuals infestations. This is a positive partnership with the USFS. The project has significant ecological merit and is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$25,500

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$25,500

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5049-16016

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lime-Aid-Remix

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$51,630

Total Cost: \$69,784

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Lime-Aid-Remix project is based out of Lime Oregon along the Burnt River. This project is located in Baker County just 3 miles South of Dixie Oregon. The Lime Hill Fire of 2015 removed the majority of vegetation, and fencing within the Western pasture. Within the Eastern pastures, over utilization by the previous owner has left the meadows along the burnt river in poor condition. The lack of watering locations and fencing has slowed rehabilitation of the property. Proper distribution of cattle is difficult to achieve in its current state, and is compounded by the ruggedness of the terrain. The goals of this project is to provide additional fencing and watering locations to redistribute cattle away from over utilized areas and aid the rehabilitation efforts of the Owner and partner agencies. This will be accomplished by installing 3 fences, 2 troughs to pull cattle from the Burnt river and allow over utilized areas to be rested. It will also benefit on going rehabilitation efforts by the BLM and NRCS who have seeded and sprayed within the Burned areas. By installing fencing, it will allow the owner to rotate cattle within this new seeding. Two sections of fence will receive low pressure from cattle and will be four strand barb wire. The last section, of fence will receive high pressure from cattle near the river and will be a five-strand barb wire fence. Two gravity feed troughs will be placed at hardened sites near springs above the high pressure fence.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application was resubmitted with additional detail and an improved budget with clear units and unit costs provided.
- Snake River goldenweed, a special status plant, is present in this area. Improving the grazing system and upland vegetation will help protect this plant.
- Core sage-grouse habitat surrounds the project site.
- The proposed fencing by the springs will help ensure this spring site is protected.
- This whole property is enrolled in CCAA.
- Since there is vegetation in the area, planting may not be needed if grazing pressure is light.
- The new landowner has a strong commitment to improve upland conditions on a previously heavily overgrazed property along I-84.
- The proposed fencing will be helpful when future restoration projects are implemented. The project has very high potential to improve rangeland resources.

Concerns

- It is difficult to determine the fencing locations on the map.

Concluding Analysis

The project location is highly visible from Interstate 84 near Lime. This section of the Interstate was adversely impacted by a rangeland fire in 2015 affecting both sides of the highway. The previous landowners severely overgrazed the range with excessive numbers of livestock and horses. The new landowner has participated in other OWEB projects in Willow Creek and has a strong desire to improve existing conditions, including the upland vegetation and overall watershed health. The grazing plan should encourage willow regrowth. The project has high potential to improve upland conditions and is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced with Conditions

Review Team Priority

13 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$33,836

Review Team Conditions

Remove fence removal component from the budget.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Staff discussed the review team recommendation with the applicant subsequent to project review. The applicant erroneously included fence removal in the OWEB-request instead of installation. Staff removed the fence removal cost from the OWEB amount and then included needed fence installation.

Staff Recommendation

Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Amount

\$52,064

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5050-16052

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Hunting WQ in Sheperd Gulch

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$44,889

Total Cost: \$132,976

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1. This project is in the Coyote Gulch Priority area with ODA and NRCS Hyline D area where Shepherd Gulch divides D & E area. Eleven miles North from Ontario.2. Water Quality in the Snake River and the 303 listing. Most of the sediment, nutrients, and bacteria in Sheperd Gulch come from polluted irrigation return flows or livestock access to surface water. Historically farmers in the area fertilize their land and a residual amount of chemicals, e-coli and nutrients can be carried off the field with the runoff from flood irrigation. This farm is fairly typical for the area and currently using 100% surface irrigation.3. By installing two (2) partial swipecenter pivots with the accompanying bubbler, pipeline, pump and flowmeter the landowner will be able to achieve a zero water runoff practice that will enhance the downstream water quality on a 43.7 acre farm from entering into Sheperd Gulch4. The partners for this project are the landowner, Malheur County SWCD, NRCS and Owyhee Irrigation District.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located in the Hyline Bench priority focus area for ODA and NRCS.
- Steep slopes contribute to high sediment and nutrient runoff.
- Converting from flood irrigation to two pivots will have significant water quality improvement.
- Implementation will eliminate runoff and erosion, which will improve water quality.
- Portions of the field that cannot be irrigated under the pivot will be seeded to dry grain and maintained for bird habitat.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

This project is in the Hyline Bench Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS). Coyote Gulch is a 6th field HUC with a 15,300-acre watershed drained by Coyote Gulch and Shepherd Gulch. Runoff from this area eventually flows into Shepard's Gulch and onto the Snake River nearby. This area is now a focus

area for NRCS where other OWEB projects were recently implemented. The priority area was determined as a result of on-going agricultural drain monitoring by Malheur SWCD funded by OWEB and DEQ. Implementation will provide substantial water quality benefits due to slope consideration and highly erodible soils. The installed pivots will be programmed to produce zero runoff and installed per NRCS recommendations. Proposed project will provide significant water quality benefits.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

10 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$44,889

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$44,889

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5051-16069

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: North Prairie Pipeline - Phase 1

Applicant: Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA)

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: \$262,105

Total Cost: \$1,776,085

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The North Prairie Pipeline will improve conditions in Prairie Creek and the Wallowa River, a tributary to the Grande Ronde River. The project will occur near Joseph, OR in Wallowa County. Irrigators currently divert water from the Wallowa River into the Farmers Ditch, which carries water to farms across 18.7 miles before spilling into North Prairie Creek. The spilled water, known as tailwater, flows through Prairie Creek before entering the Wallowa River. The open ditch captures agricultural runoff and flow in the ditch increases sediment load by erodes the ditch banks, reducing the quality of the tailwater entering these waterways. This tailwater contributes to Prairie Creek and the Wallowa River being included on Oregon's 303(d) list for collectively not meeting water quality standards for sediment, turbidity, fecal coli, E. coli, dissolved oxygen, pH, and other parameters. These water quality impairments limit Chinook salmon and steelhead trout populations in the Wallowa River. The proposed project will construct Phase 1 of a pipeline that, when fully completed, will provide irrigation water to approximately 1,483 acres and will eliminate the need to use approximately 7.9 miles of open ditch to deliver water. The full pipeline will reduce the volume of and improve the quality of irrigation water returning to Prairie Creek. Phase 1 will enable Phase 2, and Phase 2 will realize the water quality benefits achieved from the pipeline. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be providing technical and financial assistance to the project. Wallowa Lake Irrigation District's patrons will be providing technical assistance and project management throughout the life of the project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The completed pipeline will result in improved water quality in Prairie Creek because the irrigation conveyance will be through a pipeline instead of open-earthen ditches.
- The irrigation conveyance efficiency will be improved due to improved delivery. Piping the ditch will eliminate water lost to evaporation and seepage. In addition, piping will reduce the amount of tailwater transported to Prairie Creek.
- Landowners will be able to irrigate using significantly less power, which will reduce overall cost of the operations.
- There is significant cost-share from NRCS.

Concerns

- There does not appear to be local participation and coordination from the community.

- The overall project costs are unreasonably high on all budget elements compared to similar projects. The application would be strengthened by an explanation on these project costs, how they were determined, and how they are necessary for successful project implementation. For example, it is unclear why construction oversight is needed by the applicant when NRCS should be doing the construction oversight.
- Mobilization costs are unreasonably high.
- It is unclear why the budget included costs for topsoil when previously funded lateral projects typically used the soil and material that was previously dug from the trenching.
- It is unclear why the 8 miles of ditch would not be filled-in. A better justification for the flood relief and explanation is needed.

Concluding Analysis

The project is located in upper Prairie Creek where OWEB previously funded several spur ditch piping projects. Prairie Creek was also the site of water quality monitoring 20 years ago that was repeated recently, and this data indicated an improvement in water quality. Prairie Creek has significant amounts of tailwater as a result of the amount of water needed to be conveyed down spur ditches to run irrigation pumps. Prairie Creek has spring Chinook, steelhead, and introduced sockeye.

The project has very high potential for future water quality improvements. However, this application seems premature. There does not appear to be local support or coordination with the local NRCS office. While the application was well-written and detailed, the overall project cost is very high compared to similar projects. Overall, future implementation will have significant water quality benefits. If application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to demonstrate local partner participation and support, provide justification for leaving 8 miles of the ditch open for flood control, explain the location of the pipeline endpoint, and include detail on project costs that were higher compared to similar previously implemented projects. NRCS' role also needs to be articulated. The project is not ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5052-15865

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Wallowa River - McDaniel Phase 3
Technical Design

Applicant: Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: \$49,987

Total Cost: \$117,503

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Wallowa River-McDaniel Project is located in Tier 1 habitat at RM 32 of the Wallowa River, tributary to the Grand Ronde River, near Lostine, Oregon. Summer steelhead and spring Chinook salmon spawning and rearing occurs in the project reach. Reaches 1 and 2 of the Wallowa River-McDaniel Channel Reconstruction Project were implemented in 2004 and 2007, respectively. These projects created a mile of new river channel that increased sinuosity, accessible floodplain, habitat complexity, suitable spawning substrate, and pool quantity and quality benefiting ESA listed salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. The landowner, Doug McDaniel, has requested that additional measures be implemented on his property to benefit salmon and steelhead. Additional opportunities exist in this important Tier 1 reach of the Wallowa River to address limiting factors for ESA listed salmon and steelhead and to enhance measures implemented in 2004-2007. This project will focus on increasing and improving available spawning and rearing habitat. Project design is expected to include 1) floodplain creation and connection, 2) wood augmentation to existing wood structures, 3) additional mainstem wood habitat structures, 4) off-channel habitat such as swales, side-channels, and alcoves, and 5) riparian planting and protection. Project partners include the landowners, ODFW, NPT, and GRMW.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will provide designs for the third phase of a river restoration project. Phases I and II were constructed in 2004 and 2007. Phase III will build on the success of the previous two phases.
- The previously implemented phases were very effective. This next phase will expand that benefit.
- Snorkel surveys indicate Chinook are spawning in the recently constructed side channels from phases I and II.
- The project site is located in Tier1 of the Atlas prioritization process for BPA indicating this is a high priority area for the proposed habitat.
- Future construction of the side channel will provide significant benefit to anadromous fish habitat.
- The landowner has a stewardship ethic, is willing to assist with the project, and is motivated.
- This type of project has been deemed to be effective for aquatic resources.

Concerns

- The project is likely located in redband habitat, but there is not enough data to determine this.
- Contractor mileage was included in the OWEB travel budget category of the request and should be included in the contracted services budget category as part of their total bid.
- The application should include detail regarding redd counts, spawning surveys, or other information collected.
- The applicant should have provided lessons learned and other monitoring that indicates previous success.
- It is unclear from the application what the anticipated survival rate of 23,756 plants is, and whether this number of plants is needed in a future design.
- The number of hours, hourly rates, and bids for overall costs was not provided with the application. The budget's lump sum approach made it difficult to understand anticipated costs.

Concluding Analysis

This technical assistance project will provide essential designs for the third phase of a river restoration effort. The future restoration project will lead to construction of essential side channel habitat that benefits ESA-listed steelhead, Chinook salmon, bull trout, and also redband trout and lamprey. Improving lamprey habitat is an important objective for the Nez Perce Tribe. Designs are needed to provide future floodplain connectivity, a new side channel, alcove, and swale. This technical assistance is essential to provide those designs. It is unclear why a conservation easement will only be for 15 years, given the amount of funding spent on the previous projects as well as the amount anticipated for the third phase. The future restoration project will have significant merit to targeted species, and therefore, this design is essential to implement Phase III.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$49,780

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$49,780

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5053-15949

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Harney Basin Groundwater-Dependent Ecosystems_Nov2017

Applicant: The Nature Conservancy

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Harney

OWEB Request: \$48,976

Total Cost: \$66,491

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project will take place in the Malheur Lakes Basin (also known as the Harney Basin), located principally in Harney County, which includes the towns of Hines, Burns, Frenchglen, and Crane. This watershed is a closed basin and drains major tributaries (Silvies, Blitzen, Silver) and well as minor ones (e.g., Poison, Prater, Rattlesnake, Cow). Increased pumping over the last decades has resulted in groundwater declines, potentially causing harm to senior water users and rivers, wetlands, and springs. Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) has initiated two projects to address these declines and develop solutions for sustainable water management: a U.S. Geological Survey-OWRD collaborative groundwater study, and a place-based planning grant to the community. Something needed for both of these studies to be successful is a quantification of how groundwater declines have affected freshwater ecosystems and species, and a determination of what actions can be taken to protect them. However, neither project has a plan for how to do this. This project will fill this critical gap by funding analyses to identify which ecosystems and species are dependent on groundwater discharge, what their current ecological condition is, and how their groundwater supply has changed over the two decades of increased groundwater pumping. Final deliverables will include maps of groundwater-dependent ecosystems, a report assessing their current condition, and an analysis of how their condition has changed over time as compared to increased pumping and/or climatic changes. Key project partners include the Harney County Watershed Council, Harney County Court, USGS, OWRD, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative (HBWI) has an on-going OWEB FIP that incorporates LiDAR data for fish analysis. Data collected from this project is complementary to that effort and other monitoring in the basin.
- Collected data will help focus future efforts. Additional data can then be added to the groundwater survey.
- The applicant has a high likelihood of success because of their community involvement.
- Positive letters of support were provided, including one from USGS.
- The application removed the use of drones, which are no longer part of the proposal.
- Waiting for landowner outreach is beneficial until final analysis of the collected data is completed.

- After identifying and contacting landowners in the future, drones can then be utilized.
- The methodology was well described.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether this project is somewhat premature and duplicative of other agency work.
- The budget needs additional detail as it has lump sums and there is no detail provided regarding how costs were determined.
- It is unclear why the remote sensing analysis is necessary, perhaps a vegetation study can be done instead to meet this need.

Concluding Analysis

The application was submitted in the last grant cycle, but was not recommended. It was previously unclear if coordination among the various groups was occurring. With this application submission, it appears this coordination is happening. Ecological services are missing from the larger planning group because it is mostly irrigation-outcome based. The project will dovetail well into both USGS' work and OWRD's placed-based planning. This technical assistance will fund analysis to ascertain which ecosystems and species are dependent on groundwater discharge, map this information, and determine change over time.

The revised application provides a higher likelihood of success since there is a direct correlation to the USGS groundwater study as well as OWRD's placed-based planning effort. Neither of those studies will incorporate ecological values into the final water management plans and this effort fills that void. The project is essential to understand the effects of irrigation groundwater pumping on freshwater ecosystems. Technical assistance will help inform how groundwater declines affect freshwater ecosystems. Since the Harney Basin's water rights are over-allocated, understanding the adverse effects on senior water rights, rivers and wetland systems is essential.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$48,976

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$48,976

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5054-15952

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Lower Clear Creek Diversion and Restoration Designs

Applicant: Powder Basin WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$74,109

Total Cost: \$98,269

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Clear Creek is located in eastern Baker County and is critical bull trout migratory habitat, and supports a population of resident redband trout. PBWC has been working with six landowners on lower Clear Creek, near the confluence with Pine Creek, to improve conditions for native fish. Preliminary engineering designs identified three agricultural diversions within the project area that were recommended for replacement. This Technical Assistance proposal will fund further engineering work on the three diversions within the project area to remove fish passage barriers, prevent fish entrainment within irrigation systems, provide better control of diverted flow and remove in-stream disturbance from diversion maintenance. These improvements would remove two of the six current barriers to fish passage on Clear Creek, making the goal of achieving a fish passable Clear Creek within reach. Funds are also included in the proposal to advance preliminary restoration designs that have been developed for four properties near the diversion structures. Advancing the designs from 30% conceptual designs to 60% designs will provide the necessary detail to allow us to apply for funding to implement the restoration component. We are currently partnering with four landowners and have applied for matching funds from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Clear Creek is a high-risk creek that experienced significant flooding in 2006 and 2010.
- Two of the three irrigation users are willing to have a fish screen on their diversion, which is a positive step to maintain fish passage.
- Replacing the proposed diversions and fencing are positive future restoration.
- Clear Creek is critical habitat for ESA-listed bull trout. Improving riparian conditions, bank stability, and fish passage will be beneficial. Clear Creek is a major tributary to Pine Creek.
- Powder Watershed Council's initial contact with the landowners was a positive start.

Concerns

- The budget has some lump sums that made reviewing the actual costs difficult.
- Combining a request for three fish screens for a 100% design and 60% design for instream restoration is confusing.

- This seems to be a piecemeal approach to obtaining designs. This incremental approach will take significant time and could add costs. This is a flashy system and it is constantly moving. If a high-flow event occurs, the previously collected survey data will be irrelevant. This is a questionable approach to obtaining designs and seems inefficient. A better approach is to do one diversion at a time, complete that design, and move on to the next diversion.
- These three preliminary designs have not been tested.

Concluding Analysis

Sections of Clear Creek were artificially straightened and also experienced extreme high-flow events in 2007 and 2010. These events resulted in widespread bank failure, channel migration, and wider channels with areas lacking in adequate riparian vegetation. Powder Basin Watershed Council (PBWC) received a technical assistance grant to develop a restoration plan to improve hydrologic function, increase fish habitat diversity, remove fish-passage barriers, and meet landowner needs along a two-mile section of Creek. OWEB previously funded that initial technical assistance.

This request to advance the 30% designs was submitted previously and not recommended. This proposal is requesting designs for Clear Creek, a tributary of Pine Creek near Halfway, which has critical habitat for ESA-listed bull trout. This application requests technical assistance to advance three irrigation diversion designs to the 100% design. The Peer, Pollock and Wilmarth diversions were previously funded to the 30% design. Advancing restoration designs on Clear Creek from previously funded 30% design to 60% design is also requested.

Combining diversion designs to 100% and restoration designs to 60% is confusing. The applicant should consider splitting the project into separate applications, with one landowner per application for each of the diversions. The restoration needs to also be a separate application. This requested technical assistance is a piecemeal approach and very time consuming. While this section of Clear Creek will greatly benefit from future restoration work, this application did not provide the detail necessary to recommend funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5055-15953

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Powder Basin Long-term Water
Quality Monitoring

Applicant: Powder Basin WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$30,975

Total Cost: \$65,651

Project Abstract *(from application)*

For the past five years PBWC has been conducting detailed water quality monitoring at 72 sites throughout the Powder Basin to establish baseline conditions related to temperature, pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen and turbidity. As this effort comes to a close, we would like to continue monitoring at 29 of those sites in order to develop long-term trends and continue monitoring conditions. Continuing the program at a smaller scale would still allow us to detect small changes near sampling sites and large changes at a broad scale which could be used to determine if more detailed sampling was needed. In addition, the program has served as a way to engage the public and foster involvement in watershed stewardship. There is considerable support within the community for continuing the volunteer water quality monitoring program, including from the landowners who have granted us permission to sample from their properties, from three high schools who have integrated sampling into their curriculum and from community members who have dedicated themselves to the program. Continuing to utilize the community network we have established and the momentum we have built would be an efficient use of resources.

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Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The applicant is using volunteers to help collect the data, so there is a strong community outreach component that the OPMT acknowledged.

- The applicant has good experience collecting similar data and is capable of collecting the grab data.
- The applicant reviewed the data they have collected over the last five years to refine their sampling network in this proposal.
- The continuous temperature data collection is a good addition to this proposal.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The OPMT noted that several of the monitoring sites are in the headwaters and there was concern related to the limited distribution of sites where active land management activities are occurring.
- It is unclear if the data will be used to inform USFS and landowners to target locations with poor water quality, given that letters of support were not provided by them.
- The basic field parameters that are proposed to be collected once a month have a limited application. It would be more beneficial to collect continuous dissolved oxygen monitors at fewer sites than grabs at a high number of sites.
- The application did not discuss the methods to operate the continuous water temperature loggers, QA/QC the data and manage it for all 29 sites over three years.

Monitoring Team Comments

- Work with ODA and the SWCD to review the Agriculture Water Quality Management Plan to reflect on the available data and consider different parameters and sites to sample in the future.
- Communicate with the DEQ basin coordinator to better understand what parameters they could collect to contribute to the TMDL development effort.

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High-0%, Medium-75%, Low-25%

Certainty of Success

High-38%, Medium-38%, Low-25%

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project has strong support from the community and volunteers. The monitoring effort has been a positive activity for the Powder Watershed Council and is part of their outreach
- Obtaining an additional three years of monitoring would be positive for the dataset.
- The Powder Watershed Council's monitoring is the only way DEQ can obtain water quality information on private lands. This is a local dataset and is viewed with less suspicion than if DEQ were to produce this data.
- The community and volunteers are engaged in the project.
- This is complementary to temperature monitoring that Idaho Power collects.

Concerns

- About half of the sites are on Forest Service lands, sites lower in the basin are needed to obtain data on agricultural lands.
- Application would benefit from information on how the data collection sites were selected and how the monitoring data is being communicated to the agricultural community. This may have contributed to the lack of sites in the lower basin.
- The data collection sites are not in the Ag Water Quality Management Plan area.

Concluding Analysis

The Powder Basin Watershed Council (PBWC) has been collecting this data for the past five years. Previous funding for the monitoring was from OWEB and DEQ's 319 Program. PBWC's objectives are to determine if there are any large-scale changes in water quality parameters affecting the Powder, Burnt or Pine Creek basins. They also want to determine if small-scale changes are occurring where sampling clusters are located. PBWC's monitoring program has engaged many volunteers and collected data at 72 sites. With this application PBWC plans to reduce the number of monitoring sites to 29, which will enable them to still detect changes in water quality. There is considerable support from landowners, local schools and volunteers for this effort. Collected data on private land is beneficial to DEQ's TMDL effort in the Powder Basin. The data will also help to detect long-term trends and sudden changes.

Data collection sites are concentrated on public lands in the upper basin, however, data collection is needed on private lands where restoration efforts are occurring or planned. This will also help to re-engage landowners. This project has merit in engaging local partners and landowners.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$30,975

Review Team Conditions

Include more sites lower in the basin on private ground to better understand management activities; coordinate with local partners and other agencies.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5056-15960

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: No Mo Flo Without Info: Installing and Maintaining Gauges in the Malheur

Applicant: Malheur WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$136,500

Total Cost: \$171,572

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) Project Location: Northern Malheur County. 11 drains emptying into the Malheur, Owyhee, and the Snake Rivers. One site on a creek, Willow Creek. 2) The Malheur Soil and Water Conservation District and Malheur Watershed Council have been monitoring the irrigated Ag portion of the County intensively for years. We are constantly refining our sampling designs and the monitoring programs. A continuous measurement of flow to calculate pollutant load is an important refinement we need. We need to consider that restoration could be changing what we are measuring. Especially in our focus areas. Concentrations maybe increasing or remaining the same because there is less tail water. 3) OWEB funds will be used to purchase and install 7 new flow measuring weirs, and various water level measuring devices to compute a continuous stream flow record that will eventually be used to calculate a pollutant load estimate for each site. The funds will also be used to maintain the 5 previously funded gauges, conduct data analysis, and collect water samples for one year. We have funds from 319 program to cover sampling for the second year. 4) Malheur SWCD, Malheur WSC, BOR, DEQ 319 program, Owyhee Irrigation District

1) Project Location: Northern Malheur County. 11 drains emptying into the Malheur, Owyhee, and the Snake Rivers. One site on a creek, Willow Creek. 2) The Malheur Soil and Water Conservation District and Malheur Watershed Council have been monitoring the irrigated Ag portion of the County intensively for years. We are constantly refining our sampling designs and the monitoring programs. A continuous measurement of flow to calculate pollutant load is an important refinement we need. We need to consider that restoration could be changing what we are measuring. Especially in our focus areas. Concentrations maybe increasing or remaining the same because there is less tail water. 3) OWEB funds will be used to purchase and install 7 new flow measuring weirs, and various water level measuring devices to compute a continuous stream flow record that will eventually be used to calculate a pollutant load estimate for each site. The funds will also be used to maintain the 5 previously funded gauges, conduct data analysis, and collect water samples for one year. We have funds from 319 program to cover sampling for the second year. 4) Malheur SWCD, Malheur WSC, BOR, DEQ 319 program, Owyhee Irrigation District

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This application proposes to collect flow data that is needed in this area as part of the TMDL implementation tracking process.

- The flow data will help interpret the water quality grab sample data to develop loads and track the effectiveness of restoration efforts.
- The locations of the gages are very well placed and the data being obtained are needed. It will provide useful and shareable data, if analyzed.
- The applicant is working with an experienced contractor that has good knowledge of gaging station installation and maintenance.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The OPMT was concerned that the application states that the stage data from many sites will be managed and rating curves developed in spreadsheets. The large amount of time-series data and various rating curves for all of the sites would be better done with specialized software/database to effectively manage and report these data.
- The application lacked a level of detail related to the intricacies of collecting high quality data using the acoustic Doppler sensors in the canals. This equipment is challenging to calibrate to collect high quality data.
- It was not obvious if all of the data could be collected using wadeable methods and there was no discussion about how to accurately measure flows if non-wadeable conditions existed.
- The application did not explain how OWRD and USGS are involved with this project to better understand how their expertise could be leveraged and/or data could be shared with them.
- The application cites older USGS methods for taking a flow measurement, and there was no citation for methods to install a gaging station and generate a rating curve to develop and QA/QC discharge records.
- The previous stream gaging grant awarded in 2015 was to install 8 gages and the grant application states the grantee has installed only 5 gages to date. It is unclear if they will be able to maintain the previous gages and install an additional 7 gages.

Monitoring Team Comments

Utilize the following resources and cite these methods for installing and operating stream gages:

- General guidance on operations and installation of stage-discharge gaging stations. Sauer, V.B., and Turnipseed, D.P., 2010, Stage measurement at gaging stations: U.S. Geological Survey Techniques and Methods book 3, chap. A7, 45 p. (Also available at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/tm/tm3-a7/>)
- Guidance on operations and installation of velocity index gaging stations. Levesque, V.A., and Oberg, K.A., 2012, Computing discharge using the index velocity method: U.S. Geological Survey Techniques and Methods 3–A23, 148 p. (Also available at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/tm/3a23/>)
- Levels-How, when, and where to measure elevation at gage stations. Kenney, T.A., 2010, Levels at gaging stations: U.S. Geological Survey Techniques and Methods book 3, chapter A19, 60 p. (Also available at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/tm/tm3A19/>)
- Guidance on the use of pressure transducers as recording gages. Freeman, L.A., Carpenter, M.C., Rosenberry, D.O., Rousseau, J.P., Unger, R., and J. McLean, 2004, Use of Submersible Pressure Transducers: U.S. Geological Survey Techniques and Methods book 8, chapter A, 65 p. (Also available at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/twri/twri8a3/pdf/twri8-a3.pdf>)
- General guidance on taking discharge measurements including best measurement practices,

descriptions of various current meters, and directions on ratings. Turnipseed, D.P., and Sauer, V.B., 2010, Discharge measurements at gaging stations: U.S. Geological Survey Techniques and Methods book 3, chap. A8, 87 p. (Also available at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/tm/tm3-a8/>)

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High-63%, Medium-25%, Low-13%

Certainty of Success

High-0%, Medium-75%, Low-25%

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Flow monitoring will help to determine if progress is being made in the focus areas designated by ODA, NRCS or where the watershed council and SWCD are concentrating efforts.
- Data will be beneficial to DEQ's Malheur TMDL. The proposed gauges will help cover several areas that are contributing to the TMDL and provide flow data needed by DEQ.
- Monitoring sites are located in DEQ priority areas.
- Continuous flow monitoring will lead to better management in the future and improved water quality.
- Long term monitoring is needed in this area.
- This monitoring helps on a larger scale to document restoration improvement, and this project takes the burden of monitoring off the restoration project and puts it into a special program.
- There is confidence in the contractor and the previous monitoring they have done.
- With the addition of these 7 new flow-measuring weirs, there will be a total of 12 gauging stations strategically located in the basin.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant proposes to purchase and install 7 additional flow-measuring weirs, which are water-level measuring devices that compute the continuous streamflow record. The continuous measurement of flow to calculate pollutant load is an important refinement as a single instantaneous measurement of flow is not useful. Flow data will aid in evaluating agricultural projects that promote the reduction of tailwater and runoff. Flow data will provide a more accurate depiction of the water quality improvement as a result of the numerous projects implemented in the Owyhee and Malheur basins. Providing additional gauges to monitor flow is very important to the TMDL process. The data is also crucial to be able to more accurately evaluate water quality as a result of implementing many projects over the last 20 years.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$136,500

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$136,500

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5057-16033

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Harney Groundwater Management -
Filling the evapotranspiration (ET) gap

Applicant: Harney County Watershed Council

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Harney

OWEB Request: \$311,174

Total Cost: \$497,597

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project will take place in the Harney Basin, located in Harney County. This watershed is a closed basin that drains three major tributaries. In parts of the Harney Basin groundwater levels have been in decline for the past several years. OWRD placed a moratorium on new and pending groundwater applications that will be in place until they complete a five year groundwater study to better characterize the groundwater system. One of the most important outcomes of the groundwater study is a water budget that estimates the recharge, discharge, and change in underground storage. In the Harney Basin most of the recharge is discharged by bare soil evaporation and evapotranspiration (ET) from native groundwater dependent plants (phreatophytes) and irrigated crops (via groundwater pumping). Estimating recharge from precipitation for a basin is difficult and often has significant uncertainty, and is therefore typically quantified by estimating natural discharge. There is currently an information gap around discharge or water loss in the basin from ET, which is presumed to be the largest source of discharge. The crucial gap in local actual ET, potential ET, and precipitation data can be addressed by deploying eddy covariance flux towers that take local measurements of ET both from irrigated agriculture and native groundwater dependent plants (phreatophyte plant communities). This data will be processed and compared to satellite-based estimates of ET to develop a baseline of basin-wide ET under current conditions. Groundwater systems are complex systems and many partners (USGS, Desert Research Institute, OWRD, DOGAMI, The Harney County Watershed Council, and The Nature Conservancy) are all working to gather data that will be used to understand the hydrogeology, flow paths, and water budget. The proposed work is taking place in the context of a much larger monitoring and watershed planning effort, and would fill a crucial gap in funding for a very important dataset. This project will take place in the Harney Basin, located in Harney County. This watershed is a closed basin that drains three major tributaries. In parts of the Harney Basin groundwater levels have been in decline for the past several years. OWRD placed a moratorium on new and pending groundwater applications that will be in place until they complete a five year groundwater study to better characterize the groundwater system. One of the most important outcomes of the groundwater study is a water budget that estimates the recharge, discharge, and change in underground storage. In the Harney Basin most of the recharge is discharged by bare soil evaporation and evapotranspiration (ET) from native groundwater dependent plants (phreatophytes) and irrigated crops (via groundwater pumping). Estimating recharge from precipitation for a basin is difficult and often has significant uncertainty, and is therefore typically quantified by estimating natural discharge. There is currently an information gap around discharge or

water loss in the basin from ET, which is presumed to be the largest source of discharge. The crucial gap in local actual ET, potential ET, and precipitation data can be addressed by deploying eddy covariance flux towers that take local measurements of ET both from irrigated agriculture and native groundwater dependent plants (phreatophyte plant communities). This data will be processed and compared to satellite-based estimates of ET to develop a baseline of basin-wide ET under current conditions. Groundwater systems are complex systems and many partners (USGS, Desert Research Institute, OWRD, DOGAMI, The Harney County Watershed Council, and The Nature Conservancy) are all working to gather data that will be used to understand the hydrogeology, flow paths, and water budget. The proposed work is taking place in the context of a much larger monitoring and watershed planning effort, and would fill a crucial gap in funding for a very important dataset.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The applicant has worked diligently during the last ten years to address groundwater issues in the basin.
- This project is important for the place-based planning effort and the OWRD/USGS groundwater study that is ongoing.
- The information generated will also benefit the irrigators to improve crop production and conserve water.
- The expertise of the contractor is needed due to the technical complexity of the monitoring and analysis of the data.
- The contractor has a good amount of match contributing to this project.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- It was not stated in this proposal that this project has a connection to the previous OWEB monitoring grant that was funded last year to collect groundwater levels.
- The OPMT discussed that the contracting services were very high. However, they recognized that the scientific expertise of the contractor is important to completing high-quality data collection and analysis.
- The OPMT questioned how the two site locations were established and were unclear about if this number of sites was adequate to establish the ET values and the relationship with the remote sensing data. Additional information about if there are micro-climates that could affect these data exist, or if this issue was considered in site selection, would have been helpful.

Monitoring Team Comments

- Consider one year of funding to reduce costs to continue this monitoring and submit another application with a refined budget after one year of work is completed.

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High-75%, Medium-13%, Low-13%

Certainty of Success

High-100%

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant proposes to collect evapotranspiration (ET) data in conjunction with an ongoing groundwater study.
- The data will be beneficial if it will be used by local users and to help inform the groundwater study.

Concerns

- The budget has high costs and could benefit from additional explanation on how these costs were determined.
- The application read more like a research project and did not demonstrate a clear connection to the watershed benefit.
- There may already be alfalfa ET rates data available for Harney County that could be used for comparison.
- It is unclear what the value added is for this ET data because some data has already been published.
- The logic of installing the eddy covariance flux tower at a pivot point is unclear. Conditions occurring at the pivot point can be very different and additional water could accumulate and give an inaccurate reading.

Concluding Analysis

OWRD and USGS are participating in an ongoing groundwater study in the Harney basin. The study will produce a water budget to estimate recharge, discharge, and change in storage. The data gap needed to inform the groundwater study is actual ET, potential ET and precipitation data, which would be collected by employing two eddy covariance flux towers. The information will also help inform OWRD's ongoing placed-based planning. This project's goal is to accurately quantify baseline groundwater losses to ET, which causes the greatest loss of water from the basin. Understanding its dynamics is crucial for water resource management. This project may fill in gaps in data; however, some of this information may already exist or AgriMet stations could be used for comparative purposes. As a result, the cost-benefit for the investment is unclear for the high costs.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5058-16068

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Monitoring the Effects of Management on Stream Channels and Streamside Vegetation (MIM)

Applicant: Wallowa Resources

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: \$22,000

Total Cost: \$29,976

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The USFS, Wallowa Resources and Eastern Oregon University initiated the Eagle Cap Partnership to achieve the common goal of stewardship, and enable a larger and growing body of partners to participate in the social and scientific mission of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The Partnership seeks, amongst other objectives, to target civic engagement in natural resources management. Toward that end, the WWNF and WR are developing a collaborative range monitoring initiative. Other partners will include grazing permittees, the Soil and Water Conservation District, and Eastern Oregon University. The WWNF has identified 142 pastures (across 33 allotments) with 182 streams that host ESA listed fish. The partners want to establish approximately 182 MIM sites (over three field seasons) - mostly representative sites of the larger pasture area, with a few reference sites to understand potential condition. The interest in riparian status and trend data by range managers, wildlife, aquatic and fisheries biologist and ecologist continues to increase and outpace the ability of the Forest Service Range program to collect the data. This OWEB Grant is seeking funding for the first field season (2018) to establish the first 50 MIM sites. Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) provides information for managers and landowners to adaptively manage riparian resources. The MIM protocol is designed to be objective, efficient, and effective for monitoring streambanks, stream channels, and streamside riparian vegetation. Indicators and procedures monitor impacts of livestock and other large herbivores on wadable streams (usually less than 10 m wide). The USFS, Wallowa Resources and Eastern Oregon University initiated the Eagle Cap Partnership to achieve the common goal of stewardship, and enable a larger and growing body of partners to participate in the social and scientific mission of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The Partnership seeks, amongst other objectives, to target civic engagement in natural resources management. Toward that end, the WWNF and WR are developing a collaborative range monitoring initiative. Other partners will include grazing permittees, the Soil and Water Conservation District, and Eastern Oregon University. The WWNF has identified 142 pastures (across 33 allotments) with 182 streams that host ESA listed fish. The partners want to establish approximately 182 MIM sites (over three field seasons) - mostly representative sites of the larger pasture area, with a few reference sites to understand potential condition. The interest in riparian status and trend data by range managers, wildlife, aquatic and fisheries biologist and ecologist continues to increase and outpace the ability of the Forest Service Range program to collect the data. This OWEB Grant is seeking funding for the first field season (2018) to establish the first 50 MIM sites. Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) provides information

for managers and landowners to adaptively manage riparian resources. The MIM protocol is designed to be objective, efficient, and effective for monitoring streambanks, stream channels, and streamside riparian vegetation. Indicators and procedures monitor impacts of livestock and other large herbivores on wadable streams (usually less than 10 m wide).

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The OPMT felt the MIM methods are suitable for measuring grazing impacts to riparian areas. This method has a good combination of technical and numerical measurements that are straightforward and repeatable.
- The OPMT liked the participation with USFS and that there will be 15% QA/QC of the sites by USFS.
- Grazing permittees are listed as partners on the project.
- The costs are very low and have potential to contribute valuable information to the adaptive management process.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- There was some concern raised that wild ungulate browsing could make interpretation of the results challenging. No information was provided in the application that described if/how the monitoring protocol addresses this potential issue.
- The grantee is seeking very specific data for a very specific area, so questions about transferability of the data were raised.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High-50%, Medium-50%

Certainty of Success

High-63%, Medium-38%

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Project includes a technically sound method to ascertain riparian vigor after grazing.
- The criteria are what the US Forest Service (USFS) needs for NOAA monitoring.
- Collected data is valuable and will be used by outside agencies.
- Applicant is trying to establish trends, and collected data could be used for longer term monitoring and not just short term.

- Data will help establish stubble height requirements so that the grazing requirements are suitable for all the solutions.
- The project provides a significant cost-benefit for the investment.

Concerns

- Collecting the data is labor-intensive.

Concluding Analysis

The project will provide status-and-trend monitoring to help guide land management. Long-term stream and riparian monitoring will provide quantitative evaluation for functioning conditions of streams' physical condition. The goal is to provide baseline data to inform management decisions and activities that move streams to desired future conditions. The data will be used for NOAA monitoring on streams containing ESA-listed aquatic species. The proposed project is a cost-effective method to collect data. It is important information to collect to ascertain riparian vigor after ungulate browsing. Collected data will help the USFS work with permittees on land management.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$22,000

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$22,000

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5059-15945

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Baker County Invasive Species Program Coordinator

Applicant: Baker County

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$16,848

Total Cost: \$21,848

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Baker County Invasive Species Program is dedicated to the management and control of invasive species and noxious weeds within the boundaries of Baker County, Oregon. Invasive species, including noxious weeds are impacting sage grouse and other wildlife habitat and have a detrimental effect on the economy. The Invasive Species Program has been developed by the County to address local invasive species issues by a County employee dedicated to the Program. The current system for invasive species control through public/private partnership is not working as there is no local staff dedicated solely to Baker County for its citizens to access. Simply, communication and engagement is not occurring at the Baker County level and local citizens are requesting a staffed office to which they can go and receive help. This OWEB application is for partial funding of a Coordinator position for the development of stakeholder relationships, partnerships on projects, increasing public awareness through outreach. The Coordinator will work to develop partnerships between public and private land managers to address invasive species on a landscape scale and increase public awareness. The remainder of the position funding will be submitted through the Oregon State Weed Board application process as it includes multiple, developed projects on public and private land. Project partners include federal, state, and local government agencies, private land managers, and non-governmental organizations.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- There is currently no outreach coordinator in Baker County.
- The proposed project is a needed role and the work is especially important for having an indirect effect on water quality.

Concerns

- It is unclear if this proposed coordination is lacking in Baker County.
- Some weed districts are not mentioned in the application.
- It is unclear whether the applicant has a related track record for the proposed work or whether an existing entity already doing this work would be better suited instead of starting another program.
- Application would be strengthened by letters of support to provide evidence of partner support from other entities.

Concluding Analysis

The Invasive Species program developed by Baker County is seeking to address local invasive species issues. The application seeks partial funding to develop a partnership between public and private on a landscape scale. Workshops, herbicide give-aways, and media outreach will be part of the project. It is unclear from the application whether the Baker County weed department is involved and there is no evidence of coordination with Tri-County CWMA, Baker County, and federal personnel currently addressing noxious weeds issues on public land. It is unclear if any coordination is occurring or if this effort is being conducted independent of other entities. If application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to provide information on the roles of Baker County Weed Department and Tri-County CWMA; and explanation on the project need or gap that is being filled in addressing weeds in the region.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

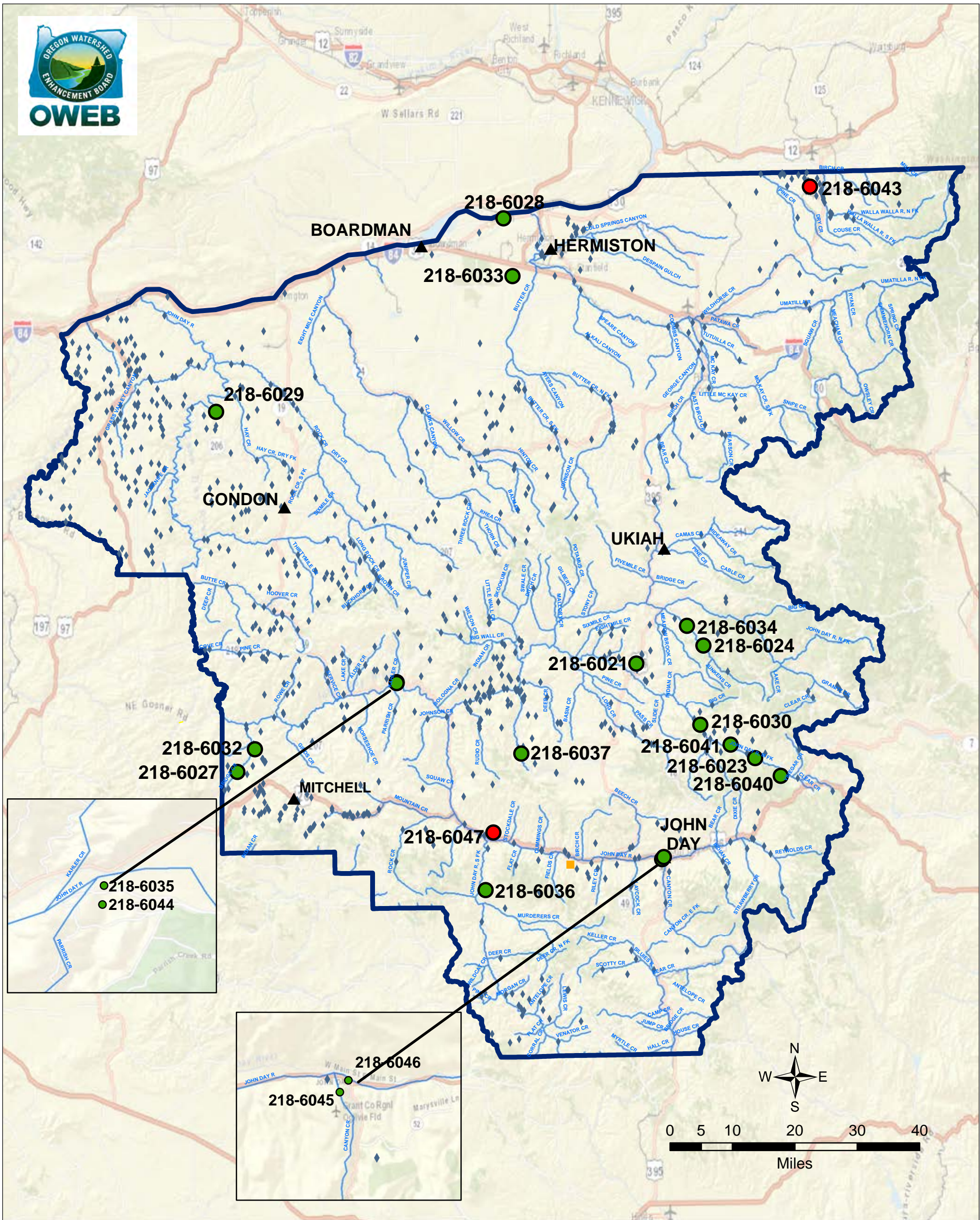
Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Mid-Columbia - Region 6 Fall 2017 Funding Recommendations



Document Path: Z:\oweb\Technical_Services\Information_Services\GIS\Maps\Review Team Meetings\2017\Fall\Cycle\Projects\Region6_AppFundingStatus_11x17_2017\Fall.mxd
 Software: ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1 NAD 83 Oregon Statewide Lambert Feet Intl OWEB- PK Wills Fall 20180327

Fall 2017 Applications

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants - 1998-Spring 2017

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region 1 Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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Region 6 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Region 6 - Mid-Columbia Basin | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-6032 | Wheeler SWCD | Bridge Bear Phase 4 | This project on Bridge Creek will add various types of wood structures to encourage high flows out onto the floodplain within a protected buffer, increasing quality habitat for both fish and wildlife. | 71,368 | Wheeler |
| 218-6024 | Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation | Desolation Creek Upper Reach 6 Implementation | This project will restore a mile of Desolation Creek's important fish and wildlife habitat by improving the river's ability to allow high flows onto floodplains and into side channels, reducing the damage caused by storm floodwaters. | 190,176 | Grant |
| 218-6035 | Bridge Creek WC | Lower Parrish Creek Restoration | This holistic proposal will restore 1/2 mile where Parrish Creek enters the John Day River by fencing a large part of the floodplain and creek to keep livestock out, developing a livestock water source outside the protected area, constructing wood structures that mimic beaver dams to catch sediment and direct high flows out onto the floodplain, establish trees and shrubs along the creek, and removing and using juniper branches and logs from 131 acres directly adjacent to the creek. As a part of the project, the landowner is also fencing over a mile of the John Day River to keep livestock off the river. | 106,733 | Wheeler |
| 218-6034 | North Fork John Day Watershed Council | Desolation Creek Wet Meadow Restoration-Phase III | Critical to the flows of Desolation Creek, this project will fence and protect over 25 acres of high-elevation wet meadows from livestock - meadows that serve as important areas for catching and storing rain and snow, later to release into the creek through groundwater connections. | 73,233 | Grant |
| 218-6027 | Wheeler SWCD | Middle Bear Creek BDA Restoration Phase 2 | This project will install wood structures that mimic beaver dams along Bear Creek and Spring Creek to help slow down and encourage high flows out into the floodplains. Those floodwaters will leave mud and be absorbed into the soil, helping to grow more trees and shrubs along the creeks and store water that will increase cooler flows later in the season. | 104,785 | Wheeler |
| 218-6030 | North Fork John Day Watershed Council | Bear Creek Restoration | Prior to reconnection with the Middle Fork John Day River planned for next year, this project will enhance over four miles of Bear Creek by adding large wood, installing structures that mimic beaver dams and removing berms and levees that keep Bear Creek from meandering and behaving like a healthy stream. | 81,200 | Grant |
| 218-6023 | Grant SWCD | Butte Pasture Fish Habitat Project | This project will build over six miles of fence to protect 3,100 acres and almost 5 miles of fish habitat on the Malheur National Forest on streams that flow into the Middle Fork John Day River. | 36,376 | Grant |
| 218-6028 | Morrow SWCD | Kingery-Cottonwood Wetland Enhancement Phase II | This project will help restore 240 acres of important wetland mosaic for migratory waterfowl and wildlife along the Columbia River. | 150,000 | Morrow |

Region 6 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| 218-6029 | Oregon Natural Desert Association | Hay Creek Restoration in Cottonwood Canyon State Park | This project on the north end of the Cottonwood Canyon State Park will use volunteers to help install wood structures mimicing beaver dams to help slow down and store water in the floodplains, helping planted trees and shrubs to grown and shade this important tributary to the John Day River. | 54,302 | Gilliam |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|--------------------|----------|
| 218-6033 | Umatilla County Weed Control | UCWD Russian Olive 2018 | This project will improve habitat for wildlife and migratating bird by removing 260 acres of invasive Russian olive trees that have overtaken a pond and surrounding wetland. | 95,584 | Umatilla |
| 218-6021 | North Fork John Day Watershed Council | Walton: RLMT Granite Creek Restoration | This project adds the final two miles of riparian fencing that will completely keep livestock from accessing Granite Creek, an important tributary of the Middle Fork John Day River. Because livestock can't water out of Granite Creek any more, four springs will be developed flowing into seven troughs; and 100 acres of thirsty juniper will be removed around the springs sites. | 103,687 | Grant |
| Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff | | | | 1,067,444 | |
| Restoration Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | | Amount Recommended | County |
| None | | None | | | |
| Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | 1,067,444 | |

Region 6 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|--|---------|----------|
| 218-6020 | Cascade Pacific RC&D | Widows Creek Pipeline | 123,617 | Grant |
| 218-6026 | Umatilla Basin Watershed Foundation | Wildhorse Creek Fish Passage | 308,892 | Umatilla |
| 218-6022 | North Fork John Day Watershed Council | Burnette: RLMT Granite Creek Restoration | 50,074 | Grant |
| 218-6018 | Cascade Pacific RC&D | Murderers Creek Upland Water | 50,989 | Grant |
| 218-6019 | Cascade Pacific RC&D | Caribou Forest Health Treatments | 124,384 | Grant |

Restoration Applications *Withdrawn* by Applicant Prior to Review

| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County |
|-----------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| 218-6025 | Confed Tribes Warm Springs | Fox Creek Mid Reach 10 Restoration | 115,247 | Grant |
| 218-6031 | Wheeler SWCD | Heflin Creek Restoration | 68,270 | Wheeler |

Region 6 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-6037 | Monument SWCD | Cole-Engle Passage and Instream Habitat Design | This technical assistance grant will result in 100% designs to correct an irrigation diversion that is quickly becoming a barrier to fish moving upstream on Cottonwood Creek, an important tributary to the North Fork John Day River. | 58,056 | Grant |
| 218-6036 | Cascade Pacific RC&D | Upper John Day Basin Collaborative LiDAR Flight | This proposal will help fund a LiDAR flight over 60.5 square miles of the South Fork John Day River watershed. LiDAR is an important tool in land management as well as planning and developing restoration projects. | 60,498 | Grant |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff | | | | 118,554 | |
| Technical Assistance Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | | Amount Recommended | County |
| None | | None | | | |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | 118,554 | |
| Technical Assistance Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | | Amount | County |
| 218-6038 | Wheeler SWCD | Twickenham Wetland Enhancement | | 27,896 | Wheeler |
| 218-6048 | Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership | Middle Mainstem Columbia Restoration Action Plan | | 74,939 | Gilliam |

Region 6 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-6045 | Cascade Pacific RC&D | Beaver Dam Analogue Workshop | This proposal will fund a three-day workshop related to the restoration tool known as beaver dam analogs and inform about beaver habitat. The funds will help offset the cost to those folks attending. | 17,436 | Grant |
| 218-6046 | Blue Mountain Land Trust | Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement in the John Day Basin | Working with local SWCDs, watershed councils, state, federal and tribal agencies, this proposal will help fund a liaison position in the John Day Basin to inform landowners on the various tools available to protect quality habitat and keep legacy farm and ranches from being sold off. | 69,479 | Grant |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff | | | | 86,915 | |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount | County |
| 218-6047 | North Fork John Day Watershed Council | Communications Campaign for the John Day Basin Partnership | This proposal will fund the creation of a media toolkit to be used by the John Day Basin Partnership (JDBP) to inform landowners and the general public about the JDBP Action Plan and the related restoration opportunities. | 32,323 | Grant |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT | | | | 119,238 | |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County | |
| None | | None | | | |

Region 6 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-6041 | Confed Tribes Warm Springs | Long-Term Ecological Effects of Passive Restoration in the Middle Fork John Day Watershed | Using scientists that did the work and the monitoring data collected 20 years ago, this proposal will replicate the monitoring protocols on same sites, resulting in a long-term analysis of changes from restoration activities done along the Middle Fork John Day River. | 182,089 | Grant |
| 218-6044 | Bridge Creek Watershed Council | Beaver Dam Analog Monitoring Protocol Development | This proposal will fund the development of standardized monitoring protocols and tools useful on beaver dam analog restoration projects. Part of the proposal is the creation of a steering committee of state and federal agencies who are involved in permitting and installation of these type of structures. | 106,961 | Wheeler |
| 218-6040 | The Freshwater Trust | Middle Fork John Day River Basin Water Temperature Monitoring and Forecasting Tool | Modeled on a successful program on Fifteenmile Creek, this proposal will develop a program model that will eventually help area irrigators manage their water use when high water temperature event is likely to occur. | 24,516 | Grant |
| Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff | | | | 313,566 | |
| Monitoring Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount | County |
| 218-6043 | Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation | Walla Walla Hydrological Enhancement and Aquifer Recharge Effectiveness Monitoring | This proposal will efforts in the Walla Walla watershed to monitor stream temperature and ground water levels and quality adding to 17 years of existing data; and a new tracer study to evaluate the connectivity between aquifer recharge site and surface flow. | 134,387 | Umatilla |
| Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT | | | | 447,953 | |
| Monitoring Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County | |
| 218-6039 | Cascade Pacific RC&D | South Fork John Day River Rapid Riparian Revegetation Monitoring | 25,392 | Grant | |
| 218-6042 | Cascade Pacific RC&D | Long-Term Population Impacts of Beaver Restoration: Bridge Creek Intensively Monitored Watershed | 387,611 | Wheeler | |
| Region 6 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award | | | | 1,586,479 | 15% |
| Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award | | | | 10,753,978 | |

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6018-15917 **Project Type:** Restoration
Project Name: Murderers Creek Upland Water
Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D
Basin: Mid Columbia **County:** Grant
OWEB Request: \$50,989 **Total Cost:** \$87,239

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project is located on the Malheur National Forest Service, Blue Mountain Ranger District's, grazing allotments within the South Fork John Day Watershed. More specifically the Murderers creek allotment, which is broken into 12 pastures. The project is also located within the Murderers Creek Mule Deer Initiative area. The permittee is working with ODFW and the Forest Service to fence the critical habitat within the allotment, to assist the distribution of livestock use away from sensitive areas. This will limit the water supply for wildlife as well as livestock. We are proposing to develop 17 off-channel water sources, strategically placed throughout 2 of the allotment pastures, across 14,000 acres. The permittee will develop 5, and we are requesting assistance from OWEB to develop the remaining 12. This upland water will assist in better utilization of the uplands, attracting livestock away from critical habitat, and provide additional water for wildlife in an arid environment. Partners included in the project include the South Fork John Day Watershed Council, Malheur National Forest Service Range Department, and Grazing allotment permittee. OWEB funds will be used for contracted services to install the developments, some materials, and project management.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Ecological benefits are realized from getting livestock to move into the uplands.
- The project complements riparian exclusion fencing on 6½ miles of steelhead streams.
- The project will help reduce degradation caused by the feral horse herd that occupies this forest.
- The permittee will provide significant match by building fences and installing five of the 17 proposed spring developments.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies Murderer's Creek as a high priority area for restoration with the project components ranked as medium ranked priority actions.

Concerns

- Information on the role of watershed council staff would have helped to justify staff time, especially since project management was listed as in-kind match from the USFS.
- The application would have been stronger if there had been more detail about spring development design specifications and an explanation of how spring sources would be protected.

- It was unclear whether each of the 17 spring sites had the same level of difficulty and associated costs. The application section describing water development specifications had all 17 sites lumped into one generic comment, rather than providing details on each site.
- No costs for spring boxes were included in the budget – it was unclear whether some boxes needed replacing and some did not. There was an upload of the spring site inventory but it did not provide a map keying those sites with the information or relate back to the costs in the budget.

Concluding Analysis

The project would provide not only good ecological benefit, but also complement the proposed riparian fencing project that will exclude livestock from watering on 6.5 miles of steelhead stream. The review team suggested resubmitting this proposal and address all of the concerns noted in this evaluation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6019-15918

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Caribou Forest Health Treatments

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$124,384

Total Cost: \$154,984

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Caribou Forest area is located at the headwaters of the South Fork John Day River, at the base of Snow Mountain. Caribou is currently owned by the Izee Ranch, who purchased the property 15 years ago after it had been heavily logged. The re-generating forest consists of overly stocked young Ponderosa Pine, Douglas Fir, White Fir, Juniper, Lodgepole, and Aspen. Caribou is bordered on 2 sides by the Utley Roadless area, of the Malheur National Forest, which has not been managed and is posing the threat of extreme catastrophic wildfire. In the first Phase of restoring forest health we have requested Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation support to strategically fall and remove conifer from around 150 acres of Aspen. We have requested assistance from the Jubitz Family Foundation to develop 2 upland watering sites. We are requesting support from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to perform forest health treatments for approximately 250 acres along the Utley Roadless Area boundary of Caribou. We are proposing to intensively thin a 100 foot (50 acres) fire buffer on the boundary of Forest and Private, and perform forest health treatments on 200 additional acres. This will be a multi-phased project, in order to address the entire Caribou Forest, over the next 5 years.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- There were no strengths noted.

Concerns

- Because of the way the topography is on this site, the 100' buffer would be ineffective for fire protection.
- Fire buffers, to be effective, need to be bare ground and maintained;. simply thinning will not stop a fire.
- The application did not provide any studies validating that 100' buffers prevent disease transmission between trees.
- Spring developments proposed as match were not relevant to the project, and without that component the required 25% match was not met.
- The project provides little ecological benefit for the cost and lacks landowner contribution.

Concluding Analysis

The proposal did not provide enough justification for why this would be a good investment of state funds. It was presented as a fire prevention tool but did not include documentation or studies explaining how these prescribed actions would stop or even slow a fire.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6020-15925

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Widows Creek Pipeline

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$123,617

Total Cost: \$154,817

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Widows Creek is a critical habitat tributary of the John Day River, approximately 15 miles west of Mt. Vernon, and 9 miles east of Dayville. Widows Creek provides important juvenile rearing and winter holding for summer steelhead. We are requesting support in order to update an outdated point of diversion, pipe an existing ditch, and provide gravity-fed sprinkler irrigation system, and also place large wood in Widows Creek. Our goals are to increase habitat complexity, improve fish habitat, and increase the water quantity/quality in Widows Creek. Project partners include; South Fork John Day Watershed Council, OWEB, and the Landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Widow's Creek is identified as having good potential for steelhead habitat.

Concerns

- The application didn't make it clear whether fish passage was open all the way to the confluence with the John Day River.
- Review was made more difficult because the application did not include any designs for the wood placement or the diversion.
- Because the field serviced by this diversion was very steep and drained directly into Widow's Creek, there were concerns about water quality being degraded by irrigation tail water or erosion.
- On the site visit, the point of diversion site could not be located and it appeared that the irrigation ditch hadn't been used for some time.
- The ecological benefit was low compared to the requested investment.
- The water right associated with this site is junior to downstream users, making viable use and regulation challenging on this over-allocated stream.
- The budget contained lump sums and lacked detail, making review more difficult.
- It was unclear why ODFW was not involved with the fish screen installation; \$6,000 requested for said screen appeared to be insufficient.

Concluding Analysis

There were too many questions and concerns to warrant funding this project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6021-15940

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Walton: RLMT Granite Creek Restoration

Applicant: North Fork John Day WC

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$103,687

Total Cost: \$133,406

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This restoration proposal is located along Granite Creek, a tributary to the Middle Fork John Day River in Grant County. The landowners have undertaken many conservation efforts, some including successful OWEB-funded riparian fencing, feed bunk relocation, and off-channel water developments to improve Granite Creek (205-082 and 206-141). This proposal builds on those efforts by fencing the remainder of Granite Creek; developing upland spring sites to provide water for livestock in pastures that will be excluded from the creek; cutting juniper on 100 acres of the ranch and spraying 50 acres of the invasive Scotch Thistle. Eliminating livestock access to Granite Creek will result in increased vegetation health, vigor, diversity, and density; and will mitigate sediment inputs and livestock waste inputs to the creek. Additionally, weed treatments and juniper removal will improve upland and riparian conditions across the property.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This is a straightforward project involving a landowner with a good history of conservation.
- The project extends an existing riparian fence and provides a good buffer width.
- Working with the Ritter Land Management Team, this slate of projects was the result of their “discovery tool” which helps determine resource concerns and ecological improvements.
- Improvements will benefit steelhead as they travel upstream. No fish barriers were known to be above or below the site.
- This is a resubmittal and the applicant removed the rock ford components and improved the detail provided in the application.
- Costs appear to be reasonable.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan ranks Granite Creek as a moderate priority area for restoration and the project components are ranked as medium priority actions.

Concerns

- The application would have been stronger if it had provided more detail on spring developments and better maps.
- The spring sources and associated collection boxes are not being fenced to protect from livestock.

- The application was unclear about scotch thistle treatment, whether the treatment area is just within the project footprint, and if there is landowner commitment to continue future weed management on the entire ranch.

Concluding Analysis

This is a resubmittal from the previous OWEB grant cycle. The applicant responded well to the previous evaluation comments and improved the application; however, concerns remain relative to weed treatment. Overall, the benefit realized from fencing off Granite Creek was significant enough to warrant funding at this time.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

11 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$103,687

Review Team Conditions

All spring sources will be required to be protected from livestock by fencing or other approved method.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$103,687

Staff Conditions

All spring sources will be required to be protected from livestock by fencing or other approved method.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6022-15962

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Burnette: RLMT Granite Creek Restoration

Applicant: North Fork John Day WC

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$50,074

Total Cost: \$63,258

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This restoration proposal is located along Lick Creek, a tributary to the Middle Fork John Day River in Grant County. Lick Creek is a perennial stream that provides 2.7 miles of spawning and rearing steelhead habitat and historically provided the majority of livestock water on the Burnette Family Ranches. The landowners have been actively working to fence off Lick Creek and provide alternative upland water sources for livestock, to both manage grazing more effectively and preserve water quality. This project builds on those efforts by fencing riparian areas on upper Lick Creek and developing springs to provide upland water sources for livestock. This project will build 5174 ft of riparian fence along upper Lick Creek, and develop 4 springs with troughs for upland livestock watering.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The landowner has a history of implementing good restoration projects on his ranch and continues to be interested in making improvements.
- The fence and two spring developments would improve livestock management in the riparian pasture.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identified Lick Creek as a moderate priority for restoration and the project components as medium priority actions.

Concerns

- The application appeared to be rushed and lacked important technical details, especially related to the spring developments and protecting the spring sources and associated seeps.
- No details were provided on what the proposed effectiveness monitoring or outreach funds would accomplish.
- The budget was confusing and the spring development costs seemed high.
- The photos included several road crossing sites; however, that element had been removed from this application. The photos provided did not match with the locations on the site visit.
- It was unclear how grazing management would protect the riparian pasture. Even though the application did include the number of animals and the grazing duration, it would have been helpful to also have the pasture acreage noted on the map.

Concluding Analysis

The landowner has a good reputation as a steward of the land; however, this application lacked enough critical information, making the review difficult. If resubmitted, the review team would like to see a better map showing acreage of relevant pastures and photo point locations; a map showing proximity to past restoration actions and the status of those past projects; more details on the technical aspects of the spring developments and an explanation of costs; and more information related to how the spring source and associated wetland would be protected from livestock.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6023-15966

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Butte Pasture Fish Habitat Project

Applicant: Grant SWCD

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$36,376

Total Cost: \$73,384

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The subject allotment is located in the Middle Fork John Day River basin between Camp Creek and Hwy 26. Federal and Private livestock managers have a continuous need for grazing management tools to protect sensitive riparian areas and improve habitat conditions for ESA-listed summer steelhead and spring Chinook salmon. A 6.2 mile fence will be installed dividing the existing Butte Pasture into the Upper and Lower Butte Pastures. The proposed Lower Butte Pasture will contain areas designated by the Forest as "Most Sensitive Riparian Areas" (MSRA) and be managed primarily for fish and wildlife with very limited livestock grazing. Project partners include Grant SWCD, the Malheur National Forest Blue Mountain Ranger District and the Permittee.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This was a well-written application detailing clear benefits for steelhead and spring Chinook.
- The project is a good investment -- low cost resulting in high ecological benefit on two streams.
- The project site is in a high priority area identified by the Malheur National Forest, ODFW and the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan.
- The cross fence design was chosen because other restoration efforts are planned for the near future along the streams, and would be hampered by a riparian fence. Those improvements include removing berms and rock barbs, abandoning roads and thinning conifers to enhance the riparian hardwood component.
- The pasture will only be used four days a year for a gathering/holding place when moving cattle.
- The permittee provided cash match and was supportive of the project during the site visit.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan ranks Bear Creek as a high priority area for restoration with the project components ranked as highest priority action.

Concerns

- There were no significant concerns.

Concluding Analysis

This project will enhance two important tributaries of the Middle Fork John Day River, providing cool water refugia for steelhead and juvenile Chinook when stream temperatures elevate on the Middle Fork in late summer. This first phase of restoration provides a way to exclude livestock but does not impede the future planned stream restoration activities. The permittee, a participant in the Blue Mountain Forest Partners Collaborative, was enthusiastic during the site visit about the project and future restoration on his allotment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$36,376

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$36,376

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6024-15967

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Desolation Creek Upper Reach 6 Implementation

Applicant: Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$190,176

Total Cost: \$429,136

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This application supports the Desolation Creek Upper Reach 6 Implementation effort located between River Miles 10.6 - 11.5 under which 38 large wood structures will be developed, two side channels reconnected, one alcove developed, 3.47 acres of floodplain enhanced, and 0.5 miles of road obliterated on land owned by Ecotrust Forest Management and managed by Desolation Creek LLC. Desolation Creek is a high value tributary of the North Fork John Day River with their confluence near Dale, Oregon in Grant County. In 2015 the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Ecotrust Forest Management entered into a 15 year conservation agreement to benefit land management strategies, listed bull trout and Mid-Columbia steelhead, and unlisted spring Chinook salmon, lamprey, and resident populations through habitat enhancement and restoration. To support and prioritize future restoration efforts throughout the Desolation Creek basin the Desolation Creek Geomorphic Assessment and Action Plan was collaboratively developed by the Umatilla National Forest, Desolation Creek LLC, Confederated Warm Springs Tribes, North Fork John Day Watershed Council, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the CTUIR. The Desolation Creek Geomorphic Assessment and Action Plan identified Reach 6 (RM 9.5 – 11.8) as the highest priority for restoration with design work beginning after the priority was identified. A potential road relocation between RM 9.5 and 10.6 and a portion of the attached restoration design implemented in 2017 reduced our 2018 efforts to RM 10.6 – 11.5. The selected design addresses large wood recruitment, side channel and wetland conditions, floodplain condition, bed and channel form, in-stream structural complexity, and temperature limiting factors through active restoration actions and natural processes.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project addresses multiple limiting factors along a priority reach of Desolation Creek, an important habitat for steelhead, Chinook and bull trout.
- The applicant has a proven track record of successful implementation of complex restoration projects.
- The BPA Restoration Review team provided input and technical review on designs at 15, 30 and 60%.
- Comprehensive designs were submitted along with the application, and a link to the Desolation Creek Geomorphic Assessment and Action Plan, which ranked reach six as a high priority.

- The project is supported by numerous stakeholders and partners, indicating strong project engagement.
- ESA consultation has been completed – the project is shovel-ready.
- Builds on restoration done directly upstream, multiplying significant ecological benefits; fits into future restoration plans that will decommission a road and reengage a major floodplain just downstream of the project site.
- There are plans to fence this last section of riparian area, excluding livestock access from the entire ten miles on the Desolation Creek LLC property.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies Desolation Creek as moderate priority restoration area with the various project components ranked medium priority actions. The North Fork John Day is the only highly viable Mid-C steelhead population in the entire Distinct Population Segment (OR & WA) and a designated Salmon Stronghold Watershed. Proposed project actions would likely benefit Mid-Columbia spring Chinook [culturally important species to the Tribes and an Oregon “potentially at risk” species (per ODFW 2005 Oregon Native Fish Status Report)] and ESA listed bull trout.

Concerns

- It was unclear whether the Desolation Creek headwaters have similar restoration needs.
- From the designs provided, there was some concern the large wood structures are over-engineered and not designed specifically to fit in with the natural environment.

Concluding Analysis

There has been a lot of planning, analysis and design resulting in restoration implemented by multiple partners on this large landholding. This early phase of significant riparian restoration builds on recently completed restoration; and will fit into future phases to improve this significant and important cold-water tributary to the North Fork John Day River – identified as a salmon stronghold.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$190,176

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$190,176

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6025-15969

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Fox Creek Mid Reach 10
Restoration

Applicant: Confed Tribes Warm Springs

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$115,247

Total Cost: \$803,269

This application was withdrawn prior to review.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6026-15992 **Project Type:** Restoration
Project Name: Wildhorse Creek Fish Passage
Applicant: Umatilla Basin WS Foundation
Basin: Mid Columbia **County:** Umatilla
OWEB Request: \$308,892 **Total Cost:** \$790,892

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Umatilla Basin Watershed Council (UBWC) and partners are collaborating with the City of Athena and Umatilla County Public Works to address fish passage and habitat in Wildhorse Creek near Athena, Oregon. Wildhorse Creek (HUC 17070103), a tributary of the Umatilla River originates in temperate forest at an elevation of 3,760 feet and flows 34 miles to the Umatilla River at an elevation of 1,100 feet near Pendleton, Oregon. ODFW & CTUIR biologist have identified a passage obstruction for steelhead along with resident rainbow trout, Pacific Lamprey, Coho Salmon, and several other non-salmonid fish species at the South 3rd Street Bridge in Athena, Oregon. Replacing the bridge was chosen because it was the only alternative from the feasibility study that would allow fish passage at all flows and would also accommodate a 100-year flood event. The existing bridge structure is a concrete box with winged buttress walls and a concrete floor. A channel spanning, concrete grade control wall located 10 feet upstream of the bridge creates a 4-foot drop in water surface elevation. These structures limit flow conveyance and passage during peak flows due to increased water velocity, and also contributes to habitat degradation. This project intends to remove the passage obstruction, replace the bridge with a larger structure that meets NMFS and ODFW fish passage criteria, meets FEMA no-rise requirements, and stabilize channel bed gradient by creating a 160-foot roughened channel. Restoring fish passage at the South 3rd Street Bridge will provide access to an additional 15.4 miles of usable habitat for salmonid rearing and spawning. Project partners include the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council, Umatilla Soil & Water Conservation District, Trout Unlimited, City of Athena, Umatilla County Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Athena Chamber of Commerce & Main Street Committee, Oregon Water Resources Department, and the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project addresses a fish passage barrier on Wildhorse Creek that blocks access of steelhead, coho, and lamprey to upstream habitat.
- 90% designs were provided with the application, resulting from an OWEB-funded feasibility study on alternatives.
- The project is responsive to local needs and shows a lot of stakeholder support.
- There has been good collaboration with key partners, and good community outreach to date.

Concerns

- It was unclear whether high quality habitat exists, or if there are fish passage barriers, in the 15 miles upstream from the bridge. Wildhorse Creek appears to go dry six miles upstream from Athena. The application would have been stronger if it had provided documentation of upstream habitat, including photos, any information on barrier assessments, temperature or water quality, and/or stream habitat inventories, including where and when flows go subsurface.
- It was unclear whether there are any barriers below Athena that could impede fish movement.
- Fish use data for Wildhorse Creek would also have been useful in the course of the review.
- Some of the infrastructure related to city use, such as guardrails, handrail, sidewalks, safety fence and lights, seem more appropriate to be funded by other entities, rather than OWEB.
- The application would have been stronger with more funding partners to offset high cost.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies this bridge as a specific action, but Wildhorse Creek ranked as a low/very low priority steelhead restoration area..

Concluding Analysis

This project follows an OWEB technical assistance grant that funded a feasibility study on alternatives to correct this fish passage barrier. The partners have effectively engaged various partners, including the City of Athena, Umatilla County and local landowners, but finding funding partners has been challenging. There were too many questions about the habitat upstream to warrant funding at this time.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6027-16015

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Middle Bear Creek BDA Restoration
Phase 2

Applicant: Wheeler SWCD

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: \$104,785

Total Cost: \$169,003

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) The project is located on Bear Creek a tributary to Bridge Creek in Wheeler County, Oregon. 2) Many portions of Bear Creek have been channelized, straightened, and confined to valley margins in order to increase the amount of area that is agriculturally viable. In these locations, high-stream power has resulted in a deeply incised stream channel that lacks complexity. This has degraded the habitat quantity and quality of this important spawning tributary for the summer run steelhead in the John Day Basin. Additionally, certain reaches within the project area experience low baseflow and intermittency. 3) The proposed work includes: Construction of 20 beaver dam analog (BDA) structures on 600 meters of Bear Creek that dewater annually. Construct 25 BDAs on 300 meters of Spring Gulch, a tributary to Bear Creek, with the intent of increasing surface flow duration both in the tributary and in downstream portions of Bear Creek. Install 20 BDAs on 400 meters of Bear Creek to increase the development of inset floodplains and facilitate the formation of scour pools and lateral and mid-channel bars. 4) The proposed restoration actions will be a collaborative effort between Wheeler SWCD, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Bear Creek provides good steelhead spawning and rearing habitat.
- 21 BDAs previously installed downstream on this ranch are successfully addressing several limiting factors, including floodplain disconnection and impaired stream connectivity.
- The tribes have committed ongoing funding to monitor these structures into the future.
- The Project will provide high ecological benefit by improving instream habitat, water quality, surface flow, and increased riparian vegetation establishment.
- Applicant has a good track record of successful implementation.
- The project involves multiple partners, who are invested in the outcome.
- This project is located on a ranch that is currently pursuing a conservation easement to protect habitat and restoration investments in perpetuity.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan ranks Bear Creek as a high priority area and project components rank as high priority restoration actions.

Concerns

- The elements in the budget were lump sums, making the review difficult.
- The application did not clearly explain why extensive consulting services were required for this type of project.
- The application would have been clearer with more detail on the three-year adaptive management process and how the costs were calculated.

Concluding Analysis

This proposal follows a similar project successfully implemented downstream on Bear Creek and multiplies the ecological benefits resulting from extensive restoration done on this ranch and in the Bear and Bridge Creek watersheds. Steelhead production and rearing in this stream will benefit from sustained and cooler flows resulting from improved floodplain function and from added instream habitat complexity.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$104,785

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$104,785

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6028-16018

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Kingery-Cottonwood Wetland Enhancement Phase II

Applicant: Morrow SWCD

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Morrow

OWEB Request: \$150,000

Total Cost: \$307,880

Project Abstract *(from application)*

OWEB and partner funds will be used to perform earthwork and installation of water control infrastructure on a large project in Irrigon, Morrow County, OR. The proposed work will benefit 240 acres of a mosaic of wetlands, uplands, and riparian habitats, on properties adjacent to the Columbia River. Work will take place on the Irrigon Wildlife Management Area (IWMA) and an adjacent private property (Kingerys), within the Columbia Plateau Ecoregion, Umatilla-Willow Subbasin. Watershed issues of concern addressed by this project are water quality and quantity, invasive species, soil erosion, and habitat fragmentation. Specific problems at this site include: 1) degraded wetland and pond habitats which limits wildlife and recreation opportunities; 2) lack of water control which has resulted in flood threats to a nearby residence; 3) Lack of ability to manage water allows invasive species to thrive, causes excess water in some locations, and lack of water in other locations. Restoration components include treating invasive species, improving water management infrastructure, and improving road access for management activities. These activities will reduce flood threat, allow the use of excess water to improve habitat management for wetlands on the IWMA, better management capabilities for control of invasive species, recharge groundwater aquifers through wetlands, and improve water quality through wetland processes, including sequestering sediments. Current partners include Morrow SWCD, Oregon Fish and Wildlife, Ducks Unlimited, Kingery family, Oregon Duck Hunters Association, and the USFWS. This project is Phase 2 of a two phase project. OWEB and partner funds were used in Phase 1 to perform preliminary feasibility and engineering design work. If funded, this phase will implement this important work. Also, this project is a good investment. OWEB funding will be highly leveraged, as partner match far exceeds the 25% minimum. We proposed a 1: 1 match to grant ratio.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project is a result of an OWEB Technical Assistance grant that funded the 100% design.
- The right partners are involved and are contributing significant match, indicating the importance of the project.
- There is good watershed benefit – important wildlife and migratory bird habitat located in a chain of wetlands along the Columbia River.
- The involved landowners are good conservation stewards and have shown interest in protecting their property with a permanent conservation easement.

- The location along a highway would be a good site for an outreach sign about conservation and the importance of wetland habitats and wildlife use.

Concerns

- It was unclear what was being done to keep Russian olive and other invasive weeds on the property from reestablishing.

Concluding Analysis

This project is collaboration between ODFW Irrigon Wildlife Management Area and a neighboring landowner with the intent to restore important wetland habitat along the Columbia River. Wetland habitats are important for both migrating and resident waterfowl, as well as terrestrial wildlife. On the site visit, over 50 wood ducks were seen using one of the wetland ponds. The need is apparent from heavy cattail infestation, closing open water access for waterfowl and impeding surface flow.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$150,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$150,000

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6029-16025

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Hay Creek Restoration in Cottonwood Canyon State Park

Applicant: Oregon Natural Desert Association

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Gilliam

OWEB Request: \$54,302

Total Cost: \$177,933

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Located approximately 25 miles northwest of Condon, Oregon in Gilliam County, the project site is a section of Hay Creek located in Cottonwood Canyon State Park. A tributary of the John Day River, Hay Creek is deeply incised, lacks diverse and woody native riparian vegetation, and has diminished fish and wildlife habitat. And, critically from a long-term ecological functionality perspective, the creek has seen a reduction in the presence of beaver and conditions offer an opportunity to encourage increased beaver residency. ONDA's project design emphasizes the use of native riparian plants, supported by weed management, exclosures and Beaver Dam Analogues to return critical water and vegetation to Hay Creek, serving as a kick-start to reengage the watershed's natural processes, reverse the impacts of grazing, fire and flood, and enhance ecological functioning. The resulting diverse vegetation community will improve the habitat of a number of notable fish species and will provide conditions that will support a resident beaver population. Project partners include Oregon State Parks, Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Gilliam County Weed Management Department.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Hay Creek is listed as a steelhead stream and has high potential for lower John Day Basin fish productivity, once limiting factors are addressed.
- The phased approach implements adaptive management by installing BDAs and incorporating lessons learned on the following year's installations.
- The strategy takes advantage of past fire activity by catching any resulting sediment movement to help speed up improved channel form.
- The applicant was responsive to the pre-application site visit comments, incorporating more detail in the application.
- The monitoring component will inform future restoration efforts.
- The project had secured funds from numerous stakeholders, helping offset the cost of implementation and showing support for the project.
- The applicant has a good reputation of organizing an efficient volunteer force for construction that does great work.
- While the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan notes that Hay Creek is a low priority area the project components are medium to high priority restoration actions.

Concerns

- The site has a serious need for weed treatment prior to planting. If weed treatment is not done as a part of initial and follow-up site prep, the likelihood of successful riparian planting will significantly decrease.
- The application would have been stronger with more detail on how the weed problem would be addressed, including the number and timing of herbicide treatments, the type of herbicide to be used, and any planned follow-up maintenance.
- The application would have been stronger with more detail on designs, at minimum a schematic showing the specific location of each structure and the associated objectives.
- BDAs may be unnecessary as Hay Creek is a low-gradient stream with an existing beaver community and extensive cattails already catching sediment and aggrading.
- A five-foot tall fence is unlikely to keep the deer population out of the riparian plantings.

Concluding Analysis

The project takes advantage of a major fire that went through this area two years ago. Hay Creek is a highly incised stream, listed as steelhead spawning and rearing habitat in the lower John Day Basin and located on the north end of the Cottonwood State Park. Over the years of excluding livestock and riparian planting, the stream has begun to heal, creating an inset floodplain and showing some beaver colonies establishing. This project will help speed up the healing process of the stream and create additional anchor points and food sources for beaver.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

9 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$54,302

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Staff will confer with applicant on justification for the five-foot height of protection fencing.

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$54,302

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6030-16035

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Bear Creek Restoration

Applicant: North Fork John Day WC

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$81,200

Total Cost: \$145,742

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Bear Creek is a perennial stream which flows into the Middle Fork John Day River (MFJDR) roughly a mile downstream of Galena, OR. During the 1930s dredge mining occurred on the MFJDR including its confluence with Bear Creek, altering the creek's base elevation and accessibility to anadromous fish. In all but the highest water years, Bear Creek is completely inaccessible to anadromous fishes. In addition to mining at the confluence, extensive placer mining occurred within Bear Creek itself. Mining, past timber harvest, and road building have left Bear Creek in an over-simplified, channelized state characterized by long, shallow riffles with little deep pool habitat. Bear Creek is heavily influenced by landslide related ground water which maintains perennial flow and low water temperature throughout the low flow period (typical 7DADM = 65F). A planned project (Galena Tailings Aquatic Restoration Project) which is expected to begin implementation in 2019 will restore connectivity at the confluence of Bear Creek and the MFJDR, restoring unimpeded access to over 4 miles of Bear Creek by native fishes including adult steelhead and Chinook salmon. To maximize the impact of the Galena Tailings project, the North Fork John Day Watershed Council (NFJDWC), partnering with the US Forest Service (USFS) and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSRO), will place large wood, install beaver dam analogues (BDAs) and remove valley constraining berms and levees to enhance geomorphic and ecohydrologic processes and functions to support limited over-summer rearing habitat for steelhead and Chinook salmon.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will enhance four miles of identified priority habitat for steelhead and juvenile Chinook. Bear Creek is known for cool water temperatures and sustained flows.
- There is high ecological value for the requested investment, with substantial partner involvement and secured funding that indicates strong support for the project.
- Strategic planning is shown by timing the habitat improvement project on Bear Creek prior to the reconnection to the Middle Fork John Day River and the Galena Tailings and Aquatic Restoration project.
- OYCC youth participation in some of the restoration work provides rural youth a chance to see the benefits of restoration, be mentored by natural resource professionals, and gain a new appreciation for the wilderness.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies Bear Creek as a moderate priority steelhead area with various project components identified as high/medium high priority actions.

Concerns

- Snow melt and high water may negatively impact the beaver dam analogs (BDAs) lower in the system.
- It was unclear whether it was appropriate to use berm material to seal the BDAs.
- It was unclear whether there were any indications of lead in the mine tailings.

Concluding Analysis

Restoration on Bear Creek, tributary to the Middle Fork John Day River, is a high priority for the Malheur National Forest. By improving habitat on Bear Creek prior to the implementation of the Galena Tailings Project (2019), four miles of high quality, cold-water habitat will be made available. This cold water tributary is critical as refuge for ESA listed fish when high stream temperatures hit the Middle Fork during late summer/early fall.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$81,200

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$81,200

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6031-16060

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Heflin Creek Restoration

Applicant: Wheeler SWCD

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: \$68,270

Total Cost: \$175,219

This application was withdrawn prior to review.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6032-16061

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Bridge Bear Phase 4

Applicant: Wheeler SWCD

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: \$71,368

Total Cost: \$108,293

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) The project is located on Bridge Creek at the confluence of Bridge Creek and Bear Creek. This is one of only two private in-holdings in the predominantly publicly owned lower reaches of Bridge Creek. The area of interest contains 1 mile of Bridge Creek and 0.25 miles of Bear Creek. 2) The other phases of the Bridge-Bear project were very successful. The Vertical Posts Structures (VPSs) performed well and showed good agreement with the HEC-RAS simulations. Even with this improvement there is still much work to do to improve floodplain connectivity and fish habitat. Bear Creek in particular needs additional improvement to floodplain connectivity. There is also still a Russian Olive presence which is still above what can be addressed with standard maintenance. 3) Phase #4 will address a mile of the Bridge Creek corridor above and below the confluence with Bear Creek and will focus on the very lower end of Bear Creek. The project will repair two of the previously installed VPSs and install 21 additional VPSs. The new VPSs will build on the success of the existing VPSs and LWD and serve to activate the floodplain. 51 pieces of large wood will be installed to provide fish habitat. These pieces of large wood are significantly larger than previous phases and will be extended into the stream channel to promote habit complexity. 4) The project partners are Bridge Creek Ranch LLC, Wheeler SWCD, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, and RSI.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application provided good designs and modeling.
- The budget provided good detail and clear information.
- Bridge Creek and Bear Creek provide both spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead and rearing habitat for Chinook juveniles, critical in the lower John Day Basin.
- Including large wood structures in the design added ecological benefit.
- The “willow whip” feature of the vertical post structures has resulted in successful establishment of riparian vegetation, adding more complexity and longevity to the structure.
- Prior phases have been successful and are meeting original objectives.
- Bridge/Bear Creeks are identified as high priority areas in the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan, with restoration components noted as high/highest priority actions.

Concerns

- Continued treatment of Russian olive should be the responsibility of the landowners.
- There was no monitoring component included in this proposal.
- Themerits and/or disturbance levels of installations using hand-held hydraulic post pounder vs. exactor with a plate compactor were unclear.

Concluding Analysis

The previously implemented projects on this reach are achieving original objectives and this proposal will add additional features to increase ecological benefit by increasing instream complexity, reconnecting to the floodplain, increasing connectivity of the alluvial fan of Bear Creek confluence, and continuing to reduce the Russian olive population to a manageable level.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$71,368

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$71,368

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6033-16066 **Project Type:** Restoration
Project Name: UCWD Russian Olive 2018
Applicant: Umatilla County Weed Control
Basin: Mid Columbia **County:** Umatilla
OWEB Request: \$95,584 **Total Cost:** \$121,959

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project is located in Umatilla County West of Hermiston Oregon on Col Jordon road. The property is overrun with russian olive trees. The landowner has made numerous attempts to remove the trees with little success. Our goal is remove the russian olive via mechanical and chemical means and replant with native shrubs and trees. The scope of the work will be spread out over a three year process. The first year will include mechanical removal of the trees. The second year will consist of chemical treatments to remove the new russian olive shoots. It will also include the first of the plantings. The third year will be spot treatment of new shoots and the final planting. Volunteers will be used for the majority of the planting. Partners include the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Soil Water and Conservation District, CTUIR plant nursery, Tyler Hansel, and Umatilla County Weed Department.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- In this resubmittal, the applicant responded well to most of the prior evaluation comments.
- Russian olive is a significant issue in Umatilla County and this project would be a good model project about treatment methods.
- Preserving and enhancing wetland habitat is critical in this area, and this project will result in high ecological benefit to wildlife and migrating birds.
- The landowner is committed to the project success and will preserve the project area for wildlife.
- The outreach component to share lessons learned and successes was well explained in the application.
- Multiple partners are involved in the project, indicating strong support.

Concerns

- The planting plan included both riparian and upland zone plantings; on the site visit, it was clarified the budget only requested funding for the riparian zone.
- Prior evaluation questions not answered include: 1) overall Russian olive infestation county-wide; 2) wildlife species use; and 3) the water source connected to the pond.
- It was unclear whether the pond was fed with irrigation tail water and if future irrigation district conveyance efficiencies could dry up the site.
- It would have been helpful to have the budget provide more detail rather than lump sums; including the two estimates used for creating the budget as an attachment may have provided clarity.

- The budget will require revision to correct an erroneous contingency amount.

Concluding Analysis

This is a resubmittal from the previous OWEB grant cycle. The applicant did a better job explaining the phases of the three-year proposal and provided more detail relating to the planting component. Umatilla County does have issues with Russian olive infestation but no known county-wide inventory has been done. Although somewhat opportunistic, paired with the large pond and located in a strategic area of migratory waterfowl patterns, this project would serve as a good model for future successful wetland restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

10 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$95,584

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Budget requires revision to reduce contingency by \$6,500, plus indirect costs, to the maximum allowable 10%.

Staff Recommendation

Fund Reduced

Staff Recommended Amount

\$88,433

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6034-16074

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Desolation Creek Wet Meadow
Restoration-Phase III

Applicant: North Fork John Day WC

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$73,233

Total Cost: \$102,433

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) This project is located on the Desolation Creek, LLC (DCLLC) property in Northern Grant County, approximately 1.5 miles northeast of Dale, Oregon. The DCLLC property takes in river mile 1.8 through river mile 12.3 of Desolation Creek (HUC #1707020304) before flowing in to the North Fork John Day River (HUC # 17070202). Desolation Creek originates in the Southern Blue Mountains, drains 69,643 acres, and consists of 230 stream miles. It provides critical spawning and rearing habitat for Mid-Columbia Spring run Chinook as well as ESA listed Mid-Columbia Steelhead and ESA listed Bull Trout.2) Historic and current land use practices have left valuable wet meadow ecosystems on DCLLC degraded. This is a result of livestock's preference for these resource-rich but sensitive systems. Lingering cattle compact the soil with deep hoof prints, leaving the meadows hummocked and burdened with soils impermeable to water. This over-utilization has negative impacts on the ecosystems structure and function. The limiting factors this project addresses are degraded water quality, impaired fish passage, degraded channel structure and complexity, and altered hydrologic processes.3) This project will install a total of 3.56 miles of NRCS guided livestock exclusion fence on four priority wet meadows-protecting a total of 25.5 acres. Meadow gullies will also be plugged with small woody debris.4) Partners for this proposed project are Ecotrust Forest Management (EFM), Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD), North Fork John Day Watershed Council (NFJDWC), and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Protecting wet meadows will provide both improved water quality and wildlife habitat.
- The fencing fits into a grazing management plan being collaboratively developed by the landowners and USFW.
- The project multiplies benefits realized by the extensive riparian fencing done on this large property, as well as other OWEB projects that funded fencing on other wet meadows.
- The land manager has a good record of successfully completing restoration projects that have been identified and prioritized in their ranch plan for the highest ecological value.
- Fences will be maintained by the ranch manager to offset any damage from large, local elk herds.

- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies Desolation Creek as a moderate priority area for restoration and project components appear consistent with the highest priority, population-wide strategy of protecting/conserving ecological processes. The North Fork John Day is the only highly viable Mid-C steelhead population in the entire Distinct Population Segment (OR & WA) and a designated Salmon Stronghold Watershed.

Concerns

- The value and outcomes of the effectiveness monitoring component are unclear.
- The future of this ranch appears uncertain; protection of the restoration investment by an easement or acquisition would secure the long-term benefits.

Concluding Analysis

This project adds to several successful OWEB projects implemented on the property. The likelihood of success is high for the project -- the land manager has a good track record of getting projects done well, on time, and within budget. The drainage where this property is located has an abundance of springs and seeps – most of them in a highly degraded state. By prioritizing and methodically protecting these wet meadows, cooler flows to Desolation Creek will likely result, improving critical habitat for Chinook, steelhead, and bull trout.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$73,233

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$73,233

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6035-16002 **Project Type:** Restoration
Project Name: Lower Parrish Creek Restoration
Applicant: Bridge Creek WC
Basin: Mid Columbia **County:** Wheeler
OWEB Request: \$106,733 **Total Cost:** \$160,017

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This application provides an overview of channel and riparian restoration plans for a severely degraded portion of Parrish Creek, a tributary of the lower John Day River in Wheeler County, Oregon. The contemporary hydrologic and riparian impairments on Parrish Creek stem from a combination of human impacts including fire suppression, intensive grazing, and the eradication of beaver. Upland fire suppression has resulted in expansion of juniper (*Juniperus* spp.) and altered hydrologic function. In addition, grazing has resulted in reduction of riparian vegetation, which may be slow to reestablish on degraded streams such as Parrish Creek where water table elevations have been decreased and baseflow discharge is low and often intermittent. The proposed work includes: 1. ODFW installation of 4,700' fencing to prevent livestock grazing within the riparian area of Parrish Creek. Landowner match installation of 6300' of fence along the main stem John Day River to exclude livestock access. 2. Planting of approximately 1,000 riparian plants over approximately 5.5 acres within the riparian exclusion fenced section of Parrish Creek. 3. Construction of 50 beaver dam analog (BDA) structures throughout the approximately 1/2 mile of intermittent stream channel on Parrish Creek. 4. Removal of 131 acres of Phase 2 juniper, (32 acres are along the floodplain upstream of the riparian treatment area, 99 acres are in the uplands.) 5. Development of one spring with two troughs to provide off channel water sites. 6. Treating 10 acres of Scotch thistle and annual weeds. 7. Monitor BDA structures for two years according to adaptive management plan. The proposed restoration actions will be executed as a collaborative effort between the Mid John Day – Bridge Creek Watershed Council, the Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, and the landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located on a highly visible and severely degraded tributary to the lower John Day River.
- Parrish Creek has a history of steelhead spawning and once this low-gradient, confluence reach is restored with surface flow and stable riparian vegetation, steelhead can again use this tributary to access cooler upstream habitat.
- The land manager is a local community leader engaging with partners on restoration for the first time; this could result in additional projects on this ranch as well as other nearby properties.
- The applicant has a good record of successful restoration implementation.
- The project addresses multiple limiting factors by improving water quality, floodplain connection, riparian vegetation, instream habitat, and connectivity.

- The fenced buffer includes a majority of the floodplain so channel can adjust and move.
- The applicant's approach growing native stock and installing plants with an auger to assure root access to moisture will increase plant viability.
- Besides fencing off Parrish Creek, the land manager is also fencing off a significant reach of the John Day River adjacent to the project site, which will remove livestock access.
- The application melded together various restoration components for a holistic scope of work, increasing efficiencies of project implementation: juniper will be removed and then used in beaver dam analog (BDA) construction, a spring site will be developed so Parrish Creek can be fenced off from livestock use, and weed treatment will assist in planting site prep.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan aligns with several high/highest priority recovery actions with Parrish Creek noted as a moderate priority area for restoration.

Concerns

- Consulting costs were not well explained in the budget or narrative. This gave an appearance of inflated costs associated with BDAs by using consultants to install rather than local contractors or volunteers.
- Because this is an intermittent stream, there was an initial concern that the plantings would not survive when flow goes subsurface; using older stock planted deep mitigated that concern.
- With the scoured out and highly degraded floodplain, there was concern 1,000 plants were not enough and no funds were requested to seed grass on the floodplain.
- The design lacked BDAs further upstream above the dry reach, which would help increase surface flows.

Concluding Analysis

This historic steelhead stream has long been a highly visible eyesore to both travelers on Highway 19 and rafters on the John Day River. Restoring this lower section of Parrish Creek to fully functioning health will result in not only ecological benefits but will serve to further the understanding of how beaver dam analogs can impact various channel types and situations.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$106,733

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$106,733

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6036-15934

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper John Day Basin
Collaborative LiDAR Flight

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$60,498

Total Cost: \$759,273

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The South Fork John Day Watershed Council (SFJDWC) is requesting \$60,498 to fund 60.5 square miles of a 1082 square mile collaborative Light Detection and Ranging (lidar) data collection in the upper John Day basin of Oregon. Funds will also allow SFJDWC staff to attend 80 training hours in lidar mapping and spatial analysis techniques that they will use for upcoming watershed assessment, strategic planning, project design, collaborative implementation, and post-project monitoring. State and federal partners have secured lidar data on National Forest and private lands to the North, East, and West of SFJDWC's acquisition area, but federal and state agencies are unable to fund collection on the land in between because of the checkerboard of ownerships. Closing this data gap will equip SFJDWC and the Murderers Creek Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP) group with vital topographical and vegetation data to plan, perform, and monitor landscape-scale restoration work that is scheduled for the watershed in 2020. SFJDWC's acquisition area includes over 40 square miles of designated big game winter range and 40 anadromous stream miles that SFJDWC and our partners are committed to protecting in the lower South Fork watershed. These are important natural and cultural resources that we can enhanced, preserved, and managed more effectively with standardized lidar data and subsequent cross-ownership project work. Project partners include Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), US Geological Survey (USGS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), US Forest Service (USFS), and Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application was well-written and presented a good plan for using the data, especially with the re-establishment of the local Coordinated Resource Management Plan group (CRMP) in the South Fork John Day River Watershed.
- The project increases local technical expertise in using LiDAR in restoration planning.
- The area identified for the flight is important because of accelerated restoration in priority areas.
- The cost of the LiDAR is reasonable. It was good to see coordination with other state and federal agencies that are also funding LiDAR flights in the basin.
- The project fills an identified data gap.
- Data will be broadly shared with the conservation community.

- The Upper John Day Basin is the 5th highest priority for LiDAR flights in the state.

Concerns

- The application map could have provided more detail, identifying where the 60.5 sq. miles covered by this proposal fit in with other flights, and whether the other flights are planned for the future or if and when they have been already flown.
- The budget was unclear relative to the proposed training.
- The application would have been stronger with letters of support from both DOGAMI and USGS, as they are noted as important partners in this proposal.

Concluding Analysis

The watershed council has successfully increased restoration in the South Fork John Day River watershed. This proposal will fill a known data gap and be used by multiple stakeholders for planning and conceptualizing additional restoration projects in the area. The timing of the proposal is important, coordinating with USGS and DOGAMI to assure efficiencies of the flights and with the re-initiation of the CRMP. Adding council technical expertise will increase the success and depth of future restoration proposals.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$60,498

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$60,498

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6037-15977

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Cole-Engle Passage and Instream Habitat Design

Applicant: Monument SWCD

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$58,056

Total Cost: \$78,684

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project is located in Grant County, Oregon approximately 15 miles south of the town of Monument. The site is located on Cottonwood Creek, a significant tributary of the North Fork John Day River that provides critical spawning and rearing habitat to Middle-Columbia River steelhead (ESA Threatened) and other aquatic species. Streambed erosion is occurring at an irrigation point of diversion (POD) at stream mile 12.75 that services water rights for two adjacent landowners. The existing diversion structure consists of channel spanning sheet pilings, a fish passage box, and headgate that diverts water into an irrigation pipeline with an ODFW fish screen. The diversion was designed to withstand a 50-year flow event. Less than a year later after it was installed, the third highest flow event on the North Fork John Day River was recorded. Over three feet of the 4-foot sheet pilings are now exposed, threatening the long-term integrity of the structure and function of the fish passage. The landowners approached the Monument SWCD to develop a solution to the erosion that maintains fish passage over the structure and eliminates their need to conduct future instream maintenance on the diversion. This project will fund a thorough site evaluation and alternatives analysis leading to a final design for restoration measures modeled to withstand a 100-year flow event. Permit applications will also be sought during this technical assistance project. Partners include the landowners, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, USFWS Partners Program, and Monument SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Cottonwood Creek is an important steelhead stream; assuring connectivity to upstream Fox Creek will multiply restoration benefits on both streams.
- The landowners are good stewards; they have successfully mitigated erosion around the diversion site.
- Although at this time the diversion is only a barrier to juvenile passage, without some correction it will eventually become a full fish barrier and block access to quality upstream habitat.
- The creek, from this site all the way to the confluence with the North Fork John Day River, is barrier free.
- Cottonwood Creek is identified as a high-priority area and removing fish passage barriers are high priority actions in the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan.

Concerns

- The estimate for engineering was high; the completion report should include cost-effective alternatives, including retrofitting the existing structure.
- It was unclear whether designs from diversions done downstream could be used as a starting point to help reduce design expense.
- There was no landowner contribution for the design costs; however, match was secured from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.
- There was disappointment the original structure didn't hold; engineering should include consideration of extreme (>100 year) flow events.

Concluding Analysis

Cottonwood Creek is an important steelhead spawning and rearing stream. This project will incorporate lessons learned from both the original design that didn't last, as well as numerous diversions corrected downstream. The stream corridor at this location is enrolled in CREP and appears to be in great shape. The project builds on numerous restoration projects and monitoring done in the watershed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$58,056

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

The grant agreement will include requirements for discussion of alternative designs, including one that would retrofit the existing structure for added stability and fish passage, in the Project Completion Report.

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$58,056

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6038-16054

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Twickenham Wetland Enhancement

Applicant: Wheeler SWCD

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: \$27,896

Total Cost: \$48,171

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) The project is located along the John Day River at river mile 143.2 near Twickenham. 2) There is an existing wetland area that is currently cut off from the river. The wetland and levee was created after the 1964 flood to protect agricultural infrastructure in the valley. Due to the widespread practice of dike and levee construction in this area there is a lack of floodplain engagement and high quality riparian habitat. 3) This project seeks to develop construction ready designs that would remove the berm and restore approximately three acres of land into high quality wetland/riparian area. 4) The project partners would include the Wheeler SWCD, OWEB, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Resource Specialists Inc. (RSI). The owner of RSI is also the landowner of the project site; a large portion of the in-kind is in the form of survey and design time of the project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The review team liked the addition of Showy Milkweed as one of the pollinators planted.
- Removing berms and increasing floodplain connection generally provides ecological benefits.

Concerns

- The proposal addresses an artificial wetland, as it appeared to have been excavated, and could actually provide more benefit serving as a filter zone for irrigation tail water coming off the adjacent crop field.
- The main stem John Day River along this reach has been identified as a very low priority area for restoration in the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan.
- The proposed three-acre project will be expensive to implement for small ecological benefit.
- The proposal does not build on any existing restoration – this section of the John Day River is highly armored and serves mainly as a migration corridor for fish.
- There was concern that if resulting restoration was implemented, it could negatively affect and flood downstream neighbor's fields.

Concluding Analysis

The review team did not feel this technical assistance proposal would result in a restoration project that would warrant funding.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6039-15919

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: South Fork John Day River Rapid
Riparian Revegetation Monitoring

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$25,392

Total Cost: \$35,392

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Monitoring of instream and riparian conditions in the upper South Fork John Day River occurred between the mid 1990s and mid 2000s in association with instream and riparian enhancement projects voluntarily implemented by landowners. In 2000, the Grant SWCD initiated an instream habitat and biomonitoring program in eleven stream and river reaches throughout the watershed. This program was intended to evaluate the effects of instream and riparian restoration efforts on the St. Clair and Keerins' ranches. In 2004 and 2006 the monitoring program was expanded to include seven additional instream monitoring reaches, and upland vegetation monitoring was included in 2004 to examine the effects of juniper removal and noxious weed control efforts (Cole et al. 2005, Lemke and Cole 2006). Until 2017, no instream assessment or monitoring work had occurred in the upper South Fork since 2006. In 2017, the South Fork John Day Watershed Council, with the consultation of Kendra Smith, implemented a rapid riparian revegetation (R3) project (planting up to 2500 stems/acre) on the St. Clair ranch along several miles of the South Fork John Day River (OWEB grant #:217-6021). In concert with this project, the Charlotte Martin Foundation provided \$10,000 to perform an instream riparian assessment to establish a new baseline immediately prior to the implementation of this project and to determine the extent to which conditions have changed since the last assessment was performed over a decade ago. The 2017 assessment occurred in three previously assessed reaches on the St. Clair ranch, where the R3 project is occurring. Project partners include, The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, The St. Clair & Izee Ranches, the Charlotte Martin Foundation, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Mike Cole, Kendra Smith, and OWEB.

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Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This application will add to existing macroinvertebrate and physical habitat data collected over the years.
- The application proposes to monitor a riparian revegetation technique that is typically not implemented on the eastside of the cascades.
- The OPMT is interested in understanding if this riparian revegetation technique is successful given that past revegetation efforts using different techniques have failed in this area. This information could be exported to other areas in the John Day Basin.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application did not show how close the plantings were to the stream channel to understand if the vegetation would influence the riparian measurements that are taken with the protocol that was identified.
- It was unclear whether or not the macroinvertebrate community would respond to the revegetation efforts in a year. The macroinvertebrate data would be more helpful later in tracking the effects of the restoration. There is more value at this time in collecting the riparian physical habitat.
- There could be value in establishing a “sliding baseline” of macroinvertebrate data in 2018 and 2019, but the applicant should temper their expectations. The OPMT cautions the applicant from attributing any trends in the data to the restoration actions as there are other variables, such as streamflow, that affect macroinvertebrate communities over short periods of time.

Monitoring Team Comments

- Work with DEQ and Xerces Society to develop a Sampling and Analysis Plan and get assistance interpreting the data.

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High (63%), Medium (37%)

Certainty of Success

High (63%), Medium (37%)

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project complements an experimental (on the eastside) high-density riparian planting and could provide valuable data for similar projects in the future.
- The project utilizes historic data for comparison on the same sites.
- This is a low-cost project on private land with a landowner excited about monitoring.

Concerns

- Macroinvertebrate monitoring one year after the last data collection seemed too soon to get any relevant data.
- The application would have been stronger if it had included information and protocols relating to the aspects of monitoring proposed other than the macroinvertebrates.
- The monitoring questions were broad and not specific to the riparian planting and/or the beaver dam analogs.
- The maps needed more detail and spatial information relating to the two types of restoration.

Concluding Analysis

There was insufficient information to determine what this monitoring would deliver. Because of the slow changes resulting from planting, there were concerns this monitoring proposal may be premature. Even changes from beaver dam analogs may take more time to effectively sort gravels and aggrade the channel. The application did not expand on additional monitoring, beside the macro invertebrate component. If resubmitted, it was suggested the applicant provide a comprehensive monitoring plan that clearly provides the questions they seek to answer, where the various restoration components are located, and where the related monitoring would be done.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6040-15947

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Middle Fork John Day River Basin
Water Temperature Monitoring and Forecasting
Tool

Applicant: The Freshwater Trust

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$24,516

Total Cost: \$29,016

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Middle Fork John Day River (MFJDR) is home to significant populations of spring Chinook salmon, as well as federally threatened Mid-Columbia steelhead and bull trout. Primary limiting factors in the watershed for these species include low summer stream flows and high-water temperatures. Lethally warm water temperatures have on occasion resulted in large adult Chinook and juvenile steelhead mortality events. A variety of public and private partners have been working for years to improve instream habitat and water quantity/quality conditions in the MFJDR. The majority of water rights in the upper basin (roughly from the town of Galena upstream) have either been entirely transferred instream or are managed such that diversions cease in late July. Instream habitat work in this area has in part aimed to address water temperatures, and significant additional work is planned for the decade to come. However, issues currently persist during mid-summer. Funding from OWEB will enable The Freshwater Trust (TFT) and area partners to develop a program that will alert area irrigators when a high water temperature event is occurring or likely to occur. This project will require the purchase, installation and operation of a real-time telemetered water temperature sensor, as well as the development of a water temperature prediction model. This project will be modeled on a similar, successful program in the Fifteenmile Creek watershed, and is viewed as a necessary, but ultimately temporary, program to prevent lethal water temperature conditions until additional instream and riparian projects are completed.

The Middle Fork John Day River (MFJDR) is home to significant populations of spring Chinook salmon, as well as federally threatened Mid-Columbia steelhead and bull trout. Primary limiting factors in the watershed for these species include low summer stream flows and high-water temperatures. Lethally warm water temperatures have on occasion resulted in large adult Chinook and juvenile steelhead mortality events. A variety of public and private partners have been working for years to improve instream habitat and water quantity/quality conditions in the MFJDR. The majority of water rights in the upper basin (roughly from the town of Galena upstream) have either been entirely transferred instream or are managed such that diversions cease in late July. Instream habitat work in this area has in part aimed to address water temperatures, and significant additional work is planned for the decade to come. However, issues currently persist during mid-summer. Funding from OWEB will enable The Freshwater Trust (TFT) and area partners to develop a program that will alert area irrigators when a high water temperature event is occurring or likely to occur. This project will require the purchase, installation and operation of a real-time telemetered water temperature sensor, as well as the development of a water temperature prediction

model. This project will be modeled on a similar, successful program in the Fifteenmile Creek watershed, and is viewed as a necessary, but ultimately temporary, program to prevent lethal water temperature conditions until additional instream and riparian projects are completed.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This monitoring and modeling effort will build on past restoration efforts to address the recent fish kill events.
- The application will leverage the existing comprehensive monitoring network in the area.
- There are good working relationships in this basin and there were good letters of support.
- There is confidence that the applicant has the abilities to complete the work as proposed.
- This project has good potential as a similar approach is working well in Fifteenmile Creek.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- It was not clear if the applicant had the primary irrigators on board to apply the information once a model is developed.
- The application would have been stronger with a preliminary assessment of the existing water withdrawals to determine whether if irrigation is reduced, an increase in streamflow would result where the fish are likely to be located.

Monitoring Team Comments

NONE

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High (88%), Medium (12%)

Certainty of Success

High (50%), Medium (50%)

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located in a high priority area for spring Chinook and other ESA-listed fish.
- The project could help in understanding and reducing fish kills on the Middle Fork John Day River.
- Freshwater Trust has the technical staff with experience in this type of modeling.
- The project is modeled after similar monitoring on 15-Mile and Cottonwood Creeks.
- The modeling is somewhat time sensitive because of dire predictions for the 2021 fish runs.
- The proposal will provide good value for minimal cost.

Concerns

- The application would have been stronger if it had included more data on where and when the fish kills have occurred relative to where the water rights are located.
- It was unclear how long it would take water from the identified points of diversion (POD) to reach locations where the fish need it.
- Because of the isolated nature of the PODs, it was unclear whether water shut-offs would be done timely enough to offset lethal stream temperatures.
- More detail was needed on the map submitted with the application, such as water rights (CFS) and POD locations, locations of past fish kills, and some reference to stream miles.
- It would have been helpful to have more information on the 15-Mile Creek situation, including discussion on the similarities and differences.

Concluding Analysis

This modeling data will have value, especially if some analysis is included related to the fish kill locations on the Middle Fork John Day River. Fifteenmile Creek has had a lot of success with a similar program; however, there are significant differences in the number and proximity of irrigators, size of the creek, and lower elevations.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

3 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$24,516

Review Team Conditions

The Project Completion Report will include an analysis of fish kill events and the likelihood of stream temperature resulting from the added water on those sites and any other identified critical reaches.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$24,516

Staff Conditions

The Project Completion Report will include an analysis of fish kill events and the likelihood of stream temperature resulting from the added water on those sites and any other identified critical reaches.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6041-16019

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Long-term ecological effects of passive restoration in the Middle Fork John Day watershed

Applicant: Confed Tribes Warm Springs

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$182,089

Total Cost: \$260,706

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Middle Fork John Day River (MFJDR) in Grant County, OR, historically incurred significant degradation due to human land use activities. Over the past several decades, landowners and resource managers have initiated activities to restore this area, including both active (i.e. riparian plantings, channel re-configuration, in-stream structures, etc.) and passive restoration (change in land management, i.e. change in grazing management). While active restoration projects typically have ongoing monitoring, the impacts of passive restoration activities are rarely quantified due to the long-term nature of recovery. In this project, we have the opportunity to re-visit sites where passive restoration was initiated over 20 years ago to quantify the impact that restoration type (passive restoration alone, and the additive effects of active-with-passive restoration) has had on overall system recovery. We will take advantage of and build upon existing historical data sets collected prior restoration initiation on vegetation structure and composition and channel morphology. We will remeasure stream reaches that have experienced only passive restoration, reaches with a combination of active and passive restoration, and reaches with ongoing livestock grazing. This project represents an active and on-going partnership with original researchers from Oregon State University and the University of Oregon, land managers at the US Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy, private landowners along the MFJDR, and current scientists from the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon. The Middle Fork John Day River (MFJDR) in Grant County, OR, historically incurred significant degradation due to human land use activities. Over the past several decades, landowners and resource managers have initiated activities to restore this area, including both active (i.e. riparian plantings, channel re-configuration, in-stream structures, etc.) and passive restoration (change in land management, i.e. change in grazing management). While active restoration projects typically have ongoing monitoring, the impacts of passive restoration activities are rarely quantified due to the long-term nature of recovery. In this project, we have the opportunity to re-visit sites where passive restoration was initiated over 20 years ago to quantify the impact that restoration type (passive restoration alone, and the additive effects of active-with-passive restoration) has had on overall system recovery. We will take advantage of and build upon existing historical data sets collected prior restoration initiation on vegetation structure and composition and channel morphology. We will remeasure stream reaches that have experienced only passive restoration, reaches with a combination of active and passive restoration, and reaches with ongoing livestock grazing. This project represents an

active and on-going partnership with original researchers from Oregon State University and the University of Oregon, land managers at the US Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy, private landowners along the MFJDR, and current scientists from the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- There is good collaboration between the universities and the tribes on monitoring in this area.
- The application builds on past data collection efforts to revisit a 20+ year-old study.
- The original professors who helped collect the data in the '90s are participating to ensure the original sites are resampled and the same methods are followed to collect the data so that comparison is appropriate and possible.
- This monitoring effort is a complement to the MF John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) that just completed a ten-year summary report.
- The applicant incorporated revisions from the last review and clearly defined the objectives for comparing the active vs passive restoration sites.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- There is uncertainty on who is going to manage this project because the project manager has moved on from the applicant organization.

Monitoring Team Comments

NONE

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High (100%)

Certainty of Success

High (75%), Medium (25%)

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The resubmittal responded well to all the previous concerns and questions addressed in the evaluation.
- The proposal is a unique opportunity to replicate monitoring from over 20 years ago, especially since it involves the same scientists that did the original collection and analysis.
- The data will be useful to many stakeholders involved in restoration as they plan projects in the John Day Basin.
- The cost is reasonable for the level of academic involvement and analysis.

Concerns

- There were no significant concerns.

Concluding Analysis

This proposal is a resubmittal and the applicant responded well to the previous evaluation's comments. It is truly a unique opportunity to replicate and analyze data on restoration done at watershed scale. The right people are involved and the monitoring is being done where numerous restoration projects have been implemented over the years.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$182,089

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$182,089

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6042-16034

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Long-term Population Impacts of
Beaver Restoration: Bridge Creek Intensively
Monitored Watershed

Applicant: Utah State University Office of
Sponsored Programs

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: \$387,611

Total Cost: \$626,679

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The consequences of channel incision, a ubiquitous problem throughout the world, include a lowering of the water table and reduced morphological complexity leading to a substantial loss of riparian vegetation, simplified fish habitat, and declines in fish populations. Incised channels can take millennia to recover; however, previous work in Bridge Creek, tributary to the John Day River, Mitchell OR, demonstrated that beaver dams or BDAs greatly accelerated the incision recovery process by reconnecting the channel to inset floodplains, relative to a control watershed. These changes quickly led to a damping of extreme water temperatures, an increase in water storage, riparian extent, fish habitat complexity, and the abundance, growth, survival and production of juvenile steelhead; one of the only experiments demonstrating a population level response following restoration. While we demonstrated large short-term responses to this restoration strategy, the longer-term responses as massive beaver dam complexes mature into more wetland meadow type habitat still need to be evaluated. This project would provide the only long-term information as to the impacts of these changes to steelhead and salmon, including the response of native non-target and non-native fish populations, and native and non-native vegetation. This grant would continue the collaboration between, NOAA, ODFW, Utah State University, and Eco Logical Research, to monitor the response of fishes and other biota to gradual shifts in conditions, whereby current infrastructure and 10 years of previous detailed monitoring, would aid in evaluating whether this inexpensive approach to assist beavers still provide benefits to listed salmonids. Given the rapid and abundant adoption of this restoration approach from the lessons learned in Bridge Creek, the longer-term evaluation is critical for further guidance. The consequences of channel incision, a ubiquitous problem throughout the world, include a lowering of the water table and reduced morphological complexity leading to a substantial loss of riparian vegetation, simplified fish habitat, and declines in fish populations. Incised channels can take millennia to recover; however, previous work in Bridge Creek, tributary to the John Day River, Mitchell OR, demonstrated that beaver dams or BDAs greatly accelerated the incision recovery process by reconnecting the channel to inset floodplains, relative to a control watershed. These changes quickly led to a damping of extreme water temperatures, an increase in water storage, riparian extent, fish habitat complexity, and the abundance, growth, survival and production of juvenile steelhead; one of the only experiments demonstrating a population level response following restoration. While we demonstrated large short-term responses to this restoration strategy, the longer-term responses as massive beaver dam complexes mature into more wetland meadow type habitat still need to be

evaluated. This project would provide the only long-term information as to the impacts of these changes to steelhead and salmon, including the response of native non-target and non-native fish populations, and native and non-native vegetation. This grant would continue the collaboration between, NOAA, ODFW, Utah State University, and Eco Logical Research, to monitor the response of fishes and other biota to gradual shifts in conditions, whereby current infrastructure and 10 years of previous detailed monitoring, would aid in evaluating whether this inexpensive approach to assist beavers still provide benefits to listed salmonids. Given the rapid and abundant adoption of this restoration approach from the lessons learned in Bridge Creek, the longer-term evaluation is critical for further guidance.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The applicant has a good track record collecting and reporting this information in the past.
- The application proposes to collect data that will build on existing efforts to better understand how beaver restoration efforts affect the stream and fish after 10 years of initial results.
- The study design is sufficient to track fish growth and survival in addition to fish passage.
- The information learned will contribute to outreach efforts in which the applicant is already engaged.
- The data will be widely distributed and is exportable to other Mid-Columbia watersheds of a similar size.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application lacked detail to explain how the project would link the extensive habitat data with aerial imagery collected with a drone to track trends over time and space.
- The application did not describe the sampling methods or cite the protocols for the habitat, groundwater, and water quality monitoring components.
- There was not sufficient detail to understand how the budget was developed.
- There were no letters of support from the restoration community or regulatory agencies communicating a strong desire for this information.

Monitoring Team Comments

NONE

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High (88%), Medium (12%)

Certainty of Success

High (50%), Medium (50%)

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project would assess the long-term impact of BDA-type installations on both fish populations and the changes in the landscape – from incised and straightened channels to more sinuous streams that are connected to the floodplains and emerging wetlands.
- The proposal included a good study design with the right people involved in the monitoring.
- It is important to know fish movement in this system, along with their abundance and growth. ODFW will not be able to cover this fish monitoring on Bridge Creek.

Concerns

- Because using drones is relatively new to monitoring, more information on how data will be analyzed would have been helpful to the review.
- The budget needed more detailed line items and no lump sums. The description in the budget identified the majority of funds going toward fish data collection. It was unclear what would fund the collection of ground water well and temperature data, aerial imagery, inventorying beaver dam distribution, and any related analysis.
- The application would have been stronger if it had included rationale for monitoring every year on those components other than fish data (it was understood that annual fish and temperature data are critical.)
- A chart, referenced in the application, was included in the design packet describing the monitoring components, spatial and temporal design; however, it was buried at the end of the uploaded document and not easily found. It would have been better to upload it as a separate document, as was done with the map.

Concluding Analysis

The monitoring done on the Bridge Creek IMW has been instrumental in the advancement of using beaver dam analogs in restoration and answered important concerns about fish passage and overall benefits. Continuing the monitoring into the future as the stream system evolves could provide useful information; however, the overall benefit is low when balanced against the high investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6043-16067

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Walla Walla Hydrological Enhancement and Aquifer Recharge Effectiveness Monitoring

Applicant: Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: \$134,387

Total Cost: \$272,334

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project is located throughout the Oregon portion of the Walla Walla Watershed in Umatilla County, near Milton-Freewater, assessing the Walla Walla River, its tributaries and distributaries, and the shallow alluvial aquifer. Monitoring will evaluate, at different spatial scales, the effectiveness of restoration projects intended to improve hydrological conditions which directly or indirectly influence fish habitat. Stream flow monitoring is needed to ensure migratory passage has been maintained for ESA-listed Steelhead and Bull trout, and reintroduced Spring Chinook salmon. Streamflow and temperature monitoring will assess the effectiveness of basin-wide streamflow and rearing habitat enhancement projects that have been implemented over the last 17 years by WWBWC. Data will be obtained for one year at varying frequencies for key parameters such as water temperature, discharge, and groundwater elevations. The effectiveness of restoration projects on a landscape scale will be based on evaluating changes over time (relying on WWBWC's robust dataset of past conditions) in groundwater elevations, mainstem Walla Walla River flow and temperature, and hydraulic gradients between water elevations in surface waters and nearby groundwater. The effectiveness of aquifer recharge projects will be assessed by comparison of conditions before and after operations, and, at one site, a tracer study. Deliverables include a report of the results of the hypotheses tested relating to basin-wide hydrology and another report of the results of the hypotheses tested relating to the effectiveness of the managed aquifer recharge sites. Sources of match include ODA, and (tentatively) the CTUIR, USBR and ODEQ. The project is located throughout the Oregon portion of the Walla Walla Watershed in Umatilla County, near Milton-Freewater, assessing the Walla Walla River, its tributaries and distributaries, and the shallow alluvial aquifer. Monitoring will evaluate, at different spatial scales, the effectiveness of restoration projects intended to improve hydrological conditions which directly or indirectly influence fish habitat. Stream flow monitoring is needed to ensure migratory passage has been maintained for ESA-listed Steelhead and Bull trout, and reintroduced Spring Chinook salmon. Streamflow and temperature monitoring will assess the effectiveness of basin-wide streamflow and rearing habitat enhancement projects that have been implemented over the last 17 years by WWBWC. Data will be obtained for one year at varying frequencies for key parameters such as water temperature, discharge, and groundwater elevations. The effectiveness of restoration projects on a landscape scale will be based on evaluating changes over time (relying on WWBWC's robust dataset of past conditions) in groundwater elevations, mainstem Walla Walla River flow and temperature, and hydraulic gradients between water elevations in

surface waters and nearby groundwater. The effectiveness of aquifer recharge projects will be assessed by comparison of conditions before and after operations, and, at one site, a tracer study. Deliverables include a report of the results of the hypotheses tested relating to basin-wide hydrology and another report of the results of the hypotheses tested relating to the effectiveness of the managed aquifer recharge sites. Sources of match include ODA, and (tentatively) the CTUIR, USBR and ODEQ.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The applicant has a good track record for performing similar efforts on past monitoring grants.
- The applicant is working with agencies in Oregon and Washington in an ongoing bi-state effort.
- This type of data is needed in the basin because of the complexity of the system.
- The applicant is working with consultants to incorporate the surface water and aquifer data to better understand the effects of the aquifer recharge projects.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application was challenging to follow (e.g., which monitoring efforts were linked to their hypotheses).
- The objectives and methods associated with the evapotranspiration component of the monitoring project were not fully explained.
- The tracer study seemed to be added on to address the Tribe's concerns, but it was unclear if legal protection of water is possible if the data show the effectiveness of the aquifer recharge project.
- Some components of the application should be broken out and/or phased in order to focus the work.
- It was not clear how the various partners utilize the information they have collected in the past to demonstrate a need to continue the monitoring efforts.
- It was not clear if one year of data was sufficient to answer their questions given the variability in the hydrologic regime.
- The applicant cited outdated USGS methods to operate and manage the gaging stations..

Monitoring Team Comments

NONE

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High (43%), Medium (57%)

Certainty of Success

Medium (71%), Low (29%)

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The need for monitoring is clear in this unique ecosystem.
- The data is made available and used by a variety of stakeholders.
- Water temperature and flow data is valuable and integral to monitoring effectiveness of the aquifer recharge program.
- Good protocols are used and the applicant has a reputation for collecting and reporting useful data.
- Bromide used in the tracer study is effective, cheap, and safe when interacting with drinking water and wells. The applicant consulted with DEQ and USGS to determine the best methodology for doing a tracer study.
- Although funding only one year of data collection was questioned, it was determined this would build on the existing 10 years of data collected, and hopefully bridge monitoring funding until BPA contracts are secured.

Concerns

- The application was hard to follow with multiple monitoring components not clearly linked to the hypothesis.
- More detail would have been helpful relative to the evapotranspiration monitoring.
- Some of the hypotheses were fairly general and already have supporting data, for example increased levels in 25% of wells. However, the information relating to well levels lacked a scientific assessment of cause and effect.
- The review team questioned why flow trackers were being rented rather than purchased.

Concluding Analysis

This proposal will provide funding to continue an extensive monitoring program, integral to the aquifer recharge program in the Milton Freewater area. The data is used by multiple stakeholders and will help guide future restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$134,387

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6044-16077

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Beaver Dam Analog Monitoring
Protocol Development

Applicant: Bridge Creek WC

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: \$106,961

Total Cost: \$144,659

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project is proposed to occur in Gilliam, Grant, Wheeler, and Crook Counties. The use of beaver dam analogs (BDAs) to aid in stream restoration has gained huge popularity in the past 5 years. Like other restoration practices coupled with their rapid adoption, BDAs must meet the monitoring requirements by OWEB, ODFW fish passage, and DSL. Despite the widespread use of BDAs by multiple parties, common monitoring protocols do not currently exist. Further, a standardized program to cover all three monitoring requirements also has not been developed. Here we propose to 1) develop a BDA monitoring protocol that fulfills all monitoring requirements that includes the added flexibility to cover project-specific objectives 2) develop a user-friendly monitoring app to collect the relevant data and encourage articulation of project objectives 3) monitor structures to progressively improve the protocol 4) develop a database for data storage from data collected from the app 5) and develop a website to allow access to all data and derived metrics to promote broad scale learning and aid in reporting. This process would occur with the oversight of personnel from federal, state and tribal agencies, watershed councils, SWCDs, and OWEB. This process would be applied to structures in Region 6 and surrounding areas with the expectation that this would be adopted as a statewide approach the following year once approved by the oversight committee. Funding for full implementation would be sought after this development and pilot year monitoring through another proposal. Project partners include Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council, Wheeler SWCD, EcoLogical Research, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Department of State Lands, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, NOAA, South Fork John Day Watershed Council, and NRCS. This project is proposed to occur in Gilliam, Grant, Wheeler, and Crook Counties. The use of beaver dam analogs (BDAs) to aid in stream restoration has gained huge popularity in the past 5 years. Like other restoration practices coupled with their rapid adoption, BDAs must meet the monitoring requirements by OWEB, ODFW fish passage, and DSL. Despite the widespread use of BDAs by multiple parties, common monitoring protocols do not currently exist. Further, a standardized program to cover all three monitoring requirements also has not been developed. Here we propose to 1) develop a BDA monitoring protocol that fulfills all monitoring requirements that includes the added flexibility to cover project-specific objectives 2) develop a user-friendly monitoring app to collect the relevant data and encourage articulation of project objectives 3) monitor structures to progressively improve the protocol 4) develop a database for data storage from data collected from the app 5) and develop a website to allow access to all data and derived metrics to promote broad scale learning and aid in reporting. This process would occur with the oversight of personnel from federal, state

and tribal agencies, watershed councils, SWCDs, and OWEB. This process would be applied to structures in Region 6 and surrounding areas with the expectation that this would be adopted as a statewide approach the following year once approved by the oversight committee. Funding for full implementation would be sought after this development and pilot year monitoring through another proposal. Project partners include Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council, Wheeler SWCD, EcoLogical Research, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Department of State Lands, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, NOAA, South Fork John Day Watershed Council, and NRCS.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application explained well the different types of beaver dam analogs (BDAs) and how they are applied in different areas.
- Aligning reporting/monitoring requirements is important to improve efficiencies among the restoration practitioners.
- It is important to identify the high-priority data to use while developing a data management system that is flexible to collect additional data.
- The applicant is inviting individuals who are well-versed on this topic to participate on the steering committee.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- It is unclear how the steering committee will play into this. Will the steering committee help define the objectives, or will they be defining the protocol and requirements?
- The timeframe for the protocol and data collection is quite short to develop a comprehensive protocol and a well-structured and robust data management system.
- There is no letter of support from the OSU web developer, yet his role in the project is critical and the application incorporates his contribution as match in the budget.
- It may be appropriate to fund the first two components, but delay the web application development piece. Value exists in convening the steering committee and combining the agency monitoring requirements to be addressed by a comprehensive protocol.

Monitoring Team Comments

- The applicant should think about having a facilitator for the steering committee process to ensure effective engagement and the capture of meaningful feedback on this important topic.

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High (57%), Medium (43%)

Certainty of Success

Medium (100%)

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Developing standard and consistent protocols for monitoring BDA-type restoration structures is a good idea because of the increase in this type of restoration being implemented on the eastside of the state.
- The breadth of the technical steering committee will help to assure that protocols incorporate various agencies' monitoring requirements and considerations.
- The deliverable will be a good tool for stakeholders as they develop and describe future BDA projects.
- Because DSL is still working on developing permitting requirements for BDA type structures, it is critical they participate on the steering committee.
- By assessing 100 different BDA structures around the region, the applicant will cover a variety of land forms and stream types where BDAs have been installed, so the resulting protocols will be useful across a broad and varied landscape.
- The right people are involved and support this proposal, either as developers or serving on the steering committee.

Concerns

- The application was unclear on who would be responsible for maintaining, updating, and inputting data into the web application.
- Because state funds were being used, there was a concern on how to maintain access for all stakeholders; the applicant should provide assurance that the website and web app will not be patented or become propriety software.

Concluding Analysis

Over the past ten years, BDAs have gained in popularity on the eastside of the state. This has caused more scrutiny from both permitting agencies and watershed professionals. This proposal will help key in on the conversation of designing structures to meet specific desired objectives and the related monitoring protocols that will deliver the data to gauge the changes and success of those desired objectives.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$106,961

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$106,961

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6045-15941

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Beaver Dam Analogue Workshop

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$17,436

Total Cost: \$28,034

Project Abstract *(from application)*

John Day Basin Partnership (JDBP) has prepared a 3-day workshop in Grant and Wheeler counties that will teach participants to design, install, and adaptively manage beaver dam analogue (BDA) structures as a tool for channel restoration. There will be two classroom days in John Day and one field day at existing BDA project sites on Bridge and Bear Creeks near Mitchell. While relatively new, BDAs provide a cost-efficient and effective approach for restoring channel and riparian function to degraded stream systems. Due to the accessibility, low-cost, and low-risk, BDA-based approaches are becoming widespread, and this workshop will ensure that land managers and restoration professionals have the skills and knowledge to design, implement, and maintain successful BDA projects throughout the basin. The workshop will take place in mid-July, at the start of the 2018 instream work window, so participants can attend the class before beginning their 2018 BDA installations. Leading project partners include the South Fork John Day Watershed Council, Eco Logical Research, Utah State University, Wheeler SWCD, NOAA fisheries, Malheur National Forest and Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. OWEB dollars will be used to purchase workshop supplies, rent a conference room at the Grant County Regional Airport, and pay for the time and travel of experienced workshop instructors from Eco Logical Research and Utah State University. OWEB's contribution will reduce program costs and make the registration fee more affordable for participants.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This proposal is timely with the increased use of this type of structure in restoration.
- The OWEB funding will reduce the cost of workshops, likely increasing the number of attendees.
- Other similar workshops have been well received, over-booked, and very successful.
- There is good diversity in the targeted audience, including restoration professionals, landowners, and contractors.

Concerns

- Initially it was unclear why the budget did not include field supplies. It was determined that the field sessions will dovetail with existing restoration projects so supplies were not necessary.

Concluding Analysis

This proposal is modeled after a successful workshop partially funded by OWEB as part of a previous BDA restoration project. That workshop had 35 attendees with a long waiting list. The technical team that presents has been involved in similar workshops all across the Northwest region. The proposed workshop agenda is comprehensive and includes information not only on construction of these type structures but also the history and philosophy of beaver dams and BDA restoration; permitting and design considerations; the tools available to analyze where structures are appropriate and where they are not; field visits showing a variety of stream systems where BDAs have been installed; and finally a field construction day where hands-on learning is provided.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$17,436

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$17,436

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6046-15957

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement in the John Day Basin

Applicant: Blue Mountain Land Trust

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$69,479

Total Cost: \$98,079

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Blue Mountain Land Trust (BMLT) will work with local SWCDs, watershed councils, and state, federal, and tribal agencies to advance land protection efforts in the John Day Basin in eastern Oregon. Elements of this project will include outreach to conservation partners, community leaders, and landowners to identify, develop, and build public support for acquisition projects in the area. This project is a continuation of work performed by BMLT and funded by OWEB under a Technical Assistance - Landowner Recruitment grant in 2017. That project was extremely successful in developing acquisition projects, and we are seeking additional funding to build on the momentum we have created and maintain the pace of land protection in the John Day.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal continues work funded by a previous OWEB technical assistance landowner recruitment grant.
- There is a need for continued outreach related to conservation easements, working lands easements and acquisitions.
- The proposal builds on existing momentum in the conservation communities of the John Day Basin.
- The person hired to work in the basin is the right person for the task. She has done well coordinating with local partners and relates with landowners.
- The applicant is a participant in the John Day Basin Partnership which will aid in identifying high priority areas for protection.

Concerns

- The application would have been stronger if it had provided more detail and clear metrics relating to project goals.
- It was unclear how the position will be supported into the future.
- It was unclear if there was a prioritization process for potential easement sites. Since potential easements are all voluntary, the program must be opportunistic.

Concluding Analysis

Conservation easements and acquisitions are relatively new to the John Day Basin. The Blue Mountain Land Trust joined with conservation partners from the John Day Basin and filled that void by opening a satellite office in John Day with appropriate staff to help provide expertise to both partners and interested landowners. This stakeholder engagement proposal will help inform and collaborate with landowners interested in easements as a tool to protect their lands from development and fragmentation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$69,479

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$69,479

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6047-16070

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Communications Campaign for the John Day Basin Partnership

Applicant: North Fork John Day WC

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$32,323

Total Cost: \$47,832

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The John Day Basin Partnership consists of 28 organizations who have come together to accelerate the pace, scale, and impact of restoration throughout the watershed. The first goal of the Partnership was to develop a basin-wide action plan that would attract additional funding, enable it to deploy funds in a more effective manner, and ultimately make greater strides towards meeting ecological goals. Over the course of three years of collaborative effort, the Partnership has become a high-functioning joint venture. It has forged new and strengthened existing relationships, developed internal communication protocols, and established operating norms. The monumental task of developing a basin-wide “ridge to ridge” action plan is nearing completion. The Partnership anticipates finalizing this Strategic Action Plan (SAP) in summer 2018. The SAP identifies and prioritizes restoration activities “from ridge-to-ridge”, and sets forth appropriate monitoring in parallel with efforts. Once the SAP is finalized, the Partnership will set its sights on OWEB’s FIP program and other sources of funding for implementation. The Partnership recognizes that landowner and public support and involvement are critical to continued effectiveness and ultimate success. As we put finishing touches on our SAP, the time has come for more dedicated and deliberate efforts towards public relations. As a component catalyzing forward movement of the John Day Basin Partnership, we respectfully submit a request for support for a strategic communications campaign. This Stakeholder Engagement project will enable the Partnership to develop a “media toolkit”, deliver targeted messaging to constituents, and receive and respond to community input.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- There is a clear strategic plan for outreach.
- Partners all participate in the John Day Basin Partnership (JDBP), a collaboration to develop an action plan to increase and accelerate restoration in the John Day Basin. This outreach toolkit is critical to the JDBP as it begins reaching out to the public.
- The communication strategy is broad and headed in the right direction.

Concerns

- The application was hard to understand and needed more detail about various tools.
- The proposal is several steps from actual restoration.

- The budget has a line item for some of the NFJDWC executive director's salary, which may already be paid for by OWEB council capacity funding.

Concluding Analysis

Starting in 2014, the John Day Basin Partnership has been collaboratively working toward the development of a basin-wide action plan to help accelerate strategic restoration in the John Day Basin. This communication proposal will aid in reaching that goal by informing a variety of stakeholders in the basin about the partnership and the action plan, and will help seek and guide restoration opportunities in the basin.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$32,323

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE



Oregon

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Miriam Hulst, Acquisitions Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item H– October 2017 Land Acquisition Grant Offering Awards
April 24-25, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the October 19, 2017 land acquisition grant offering and outlines staff recommendations for grant awards.

II. Land Acquisitions – October 2017 Offering Background and Summary

A. Applications Submitted

The October 2017 grant offering is the first of two annual land acquisition grant cycles for the 2017-2019 biennium. The land and water acquisition budget is \$7.5 million for the biennium, including \$600,000 reserved for funding land acquisition technical assistance applications.

Eight land acquisition grant applications were received, requesting approximately \$5.2 million. One land acquisition TA application was received, requesting \$149,985. The applications are summarized in Attachment A. Application evaluations are included as Attachment B.

Following technical reviews, land acquisition applications 218-9902, 218-9903, 218-9905, 218-9906, 218-9908, and 218-9909 are recommended for funding with conditions. Land acquisition applications 218-9904 and 218-9907 are not recommended for funding. The land acquisition TA application, 218-9910 is recommended for funding. Staff recommend the board award funding for all projects that were recommended for funding through the technical review.

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 utilizes technical experts to evaluate ecological outcomes, project soundness, organizational capacity, and community benefits and impacts. It also includes a public hearing and 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 and chosen by staff from Regional

Review Teams. Each ecological reviewer completed a project evaluation form, and the input of all ecological reviewers was summarized by 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, and whether reviewers think concerns are resolvable in the 18-month timeframe allowed for closing transactions after the board awards funding.

Staff 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 applications received this cycle.

Staff summarized the review outcomes for each project. After evaluations were completed, they were provided to the applicants.

Using the revised review process approved by the board in 2015, the board Land Acquisition Subcommittee met with staff during the evaluation process for the October 2017 applications. The purpose of the meeting was for subcommittee members to understand the content of the applications and the information used for evaluation that was gathered up to the time of the meeting, and to ask for additional information to help the board make sound funding decisions.

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 land acquisition grant funding recommendations total \$4,821,752

Staff recommend the board award funding for land acquisition technical assistance grants as specified in Attachment A. The land acquisition technical assistance grant funding recommendation totals \$149,985.

IV. Attachments

Attachment A: Summary of Land Acquisition Applications and Recommended Awards, October 2017 Grant Offering

Attachment B: Land Acquisition Project Evaluations

Attachment C: Project-specific Conditions (to be provided at the April board meeting)

Land Acquisition and Land Acquisition Technical Assistance Applications
October 19, 2018 Grant Offering

| Land Acquisition Applications | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|---|--------------------|--------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Application # | Region | Project Name | Total OWEB Request | Total Amount Recommended | Ecological and Capacity Score (60 max) | Transaction Soundness Flags* |
| 218-9909 | 5 | Bennett Ranch Sage-grouse Conservation Easement | \$ 819,240 | \$ 879,626 | 54 | green/yellow |
| 218-9902 | 1 | Shangrila Forest | \$ 347,900 | \$ 347,900 | 49 | green/yellow |
| 218-9906 | 6 | Canyon Creek Ranch Conservation Easement | \$ 1,400,064 | \$ 1,422,574 | 48 | green/yellow |
| 218-9903 | 1 | Tillamook River Wetlands | \$ 227,180 | \$ 254,680 | 45 | yellow/green |
| 218-9908 | 4 | Caledonia Woodlands | \$ 1,573,965 | \$ 1,584,892 | 43 | green/yellow |
| 218-9905 | 1 | Columbia River Estuary - South Tongue Point | \$ 332,334 | \$ 332,080 | 43 | yellow/green |
| 218-9904 | 1 | Circle Creek Expansion | \$ 117,400 | \$ - | 24 | green/yellow |
| 218-9907 | 1 | Yachats Habitat Preserve | \$ 400,000 | \$ - | 19 | yellow/green |
| Total Requested | | | \$ 5,218,083 | | | |
| Total Recommended | | | | \$ 4,821,752 | | |

| Land Acquisition Technical Assistance Applications | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|------------|------------|--|--|
| 218-9910 | 1 | Tillamook River Wetlands Feasibility Study | \$ 149,985 | \$ 149,985 | | |
| Total Requested | | | \$ 149,985 | | | |
| Total Recommended | | | | \$ 149,985 | | |

*Green = no concerns; Yellow = concerns likely resolvable in OWEB's granting timeframe; Red = concerns insurmountable in OWEB's granting timeframe

October 19, 2017 OWEB Grant Offering

Land Acquisition Application

Application No.: 218-9902

Project Name: Shangrila Forest

Applicant: North Coast Land Conservancy

Region: North Coast

Basin: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$347,900

Total Cost: \$481,190

Application Description [provided by the Applicant]

The Shangrila Forest project is a unique opportunity to protect 100 acres of forested and emergent wetlands and coastal temperate rainforest buffering nearly one mile of streams upstream of two existing OWEB investments in the Necanicum watershed: the Shangrila Wetland and Circle Creek habitat reserves. The Oregon Conservation Strategy highlights the Necanicum River watershed as a Conservation Opportunity Area. With the Shangrila Forest project, NCLC is seeking to advance this conservation priority by protecting in perpetuity 100 acres of coastal wetland, forest, and salmon-bearing streams. Chances to protect 100 acres of quality habitat within this watershed, more than 90% of which is owned by industrial timber companies, are infrequent. Large stream-side trees, complex riparian wetlands enhanced by beaver activity, and pocket sphagnum wetlands make this project truly distinctive.

Review

Project Soundness

The acquisition component of this project is relatively uncomplicated and appears it can be soundly implemented. Given this, the budget's line item for a due diligence contractor may be unnecessary. A yellow book appraisal also may not be necessary if no federal funds are involved. However, the budget does not include sufficient funds for stewardship of the property. While NCLC's effective use of volunteers may offset this deficiency somewhat, the proposed stewardship endowment of \$15,000 is unlikely to earn a return that is adequate for management of the property's invasive species, public use, and trespass use that challenge urban properties of this nature. Accordingly, NCLC should be requested to provide a plan for achieving its long-term stewardship endowment and property management intentions. NCLC should also confirm that its Terra Firma insurance policy will cover this property. Additionally, the OWEB-approved management plan should clearly address all matters of concern for the property, including public and trespass use, to ensure the long-term soundness of the project.

Ecological Outcomes

Reviewers agree that the acquisition of the Shangrila Forest will expand on an already significant network of conserved land to protect a wide variety of unique and rare habitats and benefit a wide range of fish, birds, mammals, and other wildlife. Though portions of the site have been logged in the last 25 years, the forest stand conditions are notably healthy with a diverse age structure and species composition. The 100-acre property contains forested and emergent wetlands and coastal temperate rainforests that provide excellent ecological function for priority species, habitats, and plant communities in its current condition. Without permanent protection reviewers noted that the property will likely be extensively logged. This would destroy much of the site's current ecological benefits and limit future benefits association with succession to a seral forest. Reviewers agreed that restoration is not required to achieve or sustain meaningful ecological outcomes for the property. The acquisition alone will protect a well-functioning ecosystem and contribute significantly to the conservation of chum salmon, coho salmon, and winter steelhead habitat. Reviewers noted that the acquisition will protect both sides of ~1 mile of creek and found the riparian areas along the creek to be in good condition and currently providing a diverse range of habitat types.

While the reviewers noted that timber harvesting has impacted the site, they agreed that if the rotational logging conducted by the current ownership were stopped, the site would be on a trajectory toward providing excellent ecological function for priority species. They noted that future restoration and long-term maintenance are minimal for this site, but that tree thinning could increase diversity and provide additional habitat benefits. Reviewers encouraged the applicant to pursue thinning as part of their management strategy.

- Needs and Opportunities: 13 points out of 15 possible points.
- Results and Benefits: 20 points out of 25 possible points.
- Condition and Function: 9 points out of 10 possible points.

Community Benefits and Impacts

The project is in an ecological network of strategically conserved lands protected by NCLC in the Necanicum watershed. It is upstream of two prior OWEB investments – Shangrila Wetland and Mill Ponds Park. This network provides spawning and rearing habitat for salmon as well as important habitat for many resident and migratory bird species. While NCLC habitat reserves are not normally open to the public, the property includes easy access to the streams from a public parking lot and NCLC plans to conduct outings with volunteer naturalists who offer guided outings on unique lands through the On the Land event series. These outings are designed to engage the public and broaden understanding of sensitive habitat reserves.

Organizational Capacity

The North Coast Land Conservancy has successfully completed previous OWEB acquisition transaction and reporting requirements and is currently managing other properties in this area. The proposed acquisition aligns with the mission of the organization and is consistent with its conservation strategy. The project

team is well suited to complete this uncomplicated transaction. However, the application lacked details how the applicant will apply its current principles and practices of conservation to this site or how it will take into account site specific considerations, specifically public access and invasive species.

The North Coast Land Conservancy relies heavily on volunteers for long-term property management and stewardship. This can prove challenging depending on the extent of invasive species and other management issues. If funded the grant conditions should require the management plan to address invasive species management on the property as well as authorized and unauthorized public access.

7 points awarded out of 10 possible points.

Public Review

A public hearing was held January 9, 2018 at Seaside City Hall. The project team and one member of the public attended. There were no public comments.

Summary

Total Score: 49 points out of 60 points possible. The proposed project presents a good opportunity to protect important aquatic habitat and connect to other conservation properties in the watershed. While the transaction is relatively uncomplicated, the applicant should address long-term capacity for stewardship, and the management plan should provide clarity on how public access will be controlled with respect to maintaining habitat integrity.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend the Board award NCLC \$347,900 in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. Staff will consult with NCLC to finalize project-specific conditions. The conditions will be provided to the Board at its April 2018 meeting.

October 19, 2017 OWEB Grant Offering

Land Acquisition Application

Application No.: 218-9903

Project Name: Tillamook River Wetlands

Applicant: North Coast Land Conservancy

Region: North Coast

Basin: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$227,180

Total Cost: \$289,130

Application Description [provided by the Applicant]

The vision for the property is to restore function and return the Tillamook River to a large area of its historic floodplain. The proposed Tillamook River Wetlands project (TRW), is a significant opportunity to improve tidal wetland function, habitat complexity, species diversity, and water quality in the Tillamook Bay estuary. Working together, TEP and NCLC will acquire and restore the 73-acre property to ensure all of its ecosystem services are realized. Tidal wetland protection, hydrologic reconnection, and restoration of habitat complexity are critical needs that must be addressed to recover salmonids and other sensitive wetland-dependent species. The Tillamook River Wetlands project will provide critical habitat for 15 federal or state listed species of concern and 14 priority species for the North Coast Basin. In Addition, five OWEB priority ecological systems will be addressed by the Tillamook River Wetlands project. These include lowland non-linear forested wetlands, lowland riparian woodland and shrubland, mesic herbaceous wetlands, Sitka spruce forest, and tidally-influenced freshwater wetlands.

Review

Project Soundness

The application requests approximately 85 percent of the estimated purchase price of the property. However, OWEB can contribute only up to 75 percent of the purchase price. Accordingly, NCLC's match will need to be increased, depending on the outcome of the appraisal.

The acquisition component of this project is complicated, requiring the release of a mineral reservation and completion of a partition plat and associated land use approval. The OWEB board should consider providing grant funds for NCLC to hire a due diligence contractor for the project.

While the restoration strategy for the property is unclear at this time, NCLC's project partner, the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP), has applied for OWEB acquisition technical assistance funds to determine the property's restoration possibilities, constraints, and costs. The application states that NCLC will be responsible for long-term stewardship, but TEP's role is unclear. The application states that NCLC maintains stewardship funds for its portfolio as a whole, but no stewardship fund for this property is specified. It is

unknown when the Tillamook County Senate Bill 1517 process will be complete, and what recommendations will result from that approval, if given. Since the investment would be fulfilled by restoration of tidal wetlands, OWEB will recommend conditioning funding on county approval through the pilot process being established through implementation of Senate Bill 1517.

If the Board awards funds for this project, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) may help to clarify the roles and responsibilities of NCLC and TEP regarding restoration and long-term stewardship. This could be particularly beneficial, given the complex, costly nature of the project.

Ecological Outcomes

Reviewers agreed that this project presents a unique and limited opportunity to protect and restore high value habitat types in the Tillamook River Basin with apparent support from landowners and key decision-makers in the agricultural community. Given the intensive agricultural uses and development in most other former tidal habitats, projects of this nature are important and have the greatest potential to provide habitat benefits for estuarine-dependent fish and wildlife resources. In particular, at 73 acres with 0.71 miles of Tillamook River frontage, the project provides the opportunity to connect spring-fed, cool-water rearing wetlands to the tidal portion of the Tillamook River and could directly provide rearing and foraging habitat for listed juvenile Coho salmon. This would address a key life history limiting factor for this ESA-listed species and would also benefit lamprey and northern red-legged frog. The intact ecotone of forest-wetland habitat is uncommon in this basin and the opportunity to restore spruce swamp forested habitat would address an extremely rare (and nationally declining) habitat type in this area. In its current condition, the site is cut off from tidal influence with primarily freshwater vegetation rather than salt-tolerant species. If hydrology is restored through tide gate removal and road modifications, meaningful ecological outcomes are expected. Further, reviewers felt that, in addition to the benefits on this site, the project could serve as a catalyst to inspire additional wetland restoration in the Tillamook River basin.

While this project will significantly contribute to the area's conservation goals, reviewers noted that this acquisition project includes restoration in a future phase and until restoration occurs, the project will not result in the expected ecological outcomes. Restoring natural hydrology is the key to providing highly functioning habitat at this site. As noted above, the restoration approach is under development. Fraser Road lies between the site and the river, which means that restoring tidal flow has the potential for significant infrastructure improvements. Reviewers felt that habitat for spotted owl and marbled murrelet are likely on the adjacent parcel of spruce swamp and not on the property itself. Reviewers noted that the County Conditional Use Process and SB 1517 as well as the need to secure future funding for restoration actions could present barriers to achieving the project's stated ecological outcomes. They also noted that the applicant should consider obtaining clarification and commitment from the seller on a number of items: that lead bullets will not be utilized in shooting range activities that are near the wetlands, clarification on the potential access road options, and a management agreement that NCLC can work with the seller to treat invasive species as needed along the property boundary and buffer.

- Needs and Opportunities: 12 points out of 15 possible points.
- Results and Benefits: 20 points out of 25 possible points.
- Condition and Function: 6 points out of 10 possible points.

Community Benefits and Impacts

The application states that the project would benefit the community by providing an opportunity to establish a controlled firearm safety range, increasing neighboring landowner outreach, and the potential for recreational access, including youth hunting. Through contacts with neighbors and community organizations, the applicant has established broad support for the project. Due to the current condition of the property, the community would benefit from responsible conservation and restoration activities.

Organizational Capacity

The North Coast Land Conservancy has successfully completed previous OWEB acquisition transaction and reporting requirements and is currently managing other properties in the North Coast. However, this project is located at the edge of the applicant's current geography, which might cause challenges for long-term management. The proposed acquisition aligns with the mission of the organization and is consistent with its conservation strategy. The project team is well suited to complete this uncomplicated transaction. The applicant also has sufficient staff and volunteers to develop the management plan and complete long-term management of the site. However, the application lacked details about how the applicant will apply its current principles and practices of conservation to this site or how it will take into account site specific considerations, including public access, invasive species, and current and future impacts of the road on the property.

- 7 points awarded out of 10 possible points.

Public Review

A public hearing was held at Tillamook City Hall on January 8, 2018 with 9 people in attendance. The hearing focused on the public's view of the project's benefits, and questions and concerns about the project, summarized as follows:

Benefits:

- Provides bald eagle habitat.
- It is a special place that should be protected.
- Provides great fish and waterfowl habitat.
- Provides salmon rearing habitat.
- Opportunity to continue restoration work on the property.
- Entices land trust interest in the Tillamook community.

Concerns:

- If the project is not funded, then the community loses the benefits of the property for conservation.
- The project will need to keep water off of two adjacent parcels on Frazier Road.
- Potential impacts to the paved part of the County road.

Messages for the Board:

- If the property is not conserved, it may be subject to grazing in the future. The property is poorly suited to agricultural use.

- The Watershed Council’s strategic plan focuses on the Tillamook River; this project is a perfect fit for restoring habitat.
- The project addresses key limiting factors: loss of wetlands and improved floodplain access.

Summary

Total Score: 45 points out of 60 points possible. Should restoration prove feasible, the project is a good opportunity to conserve important tidal wetlands and associated critical habitat. The project is managed by partners experienced in conservation and restoration. Given that the acquisition component of this project is complicated, requiring the release of a mineral reservation and completion of a partition plat and associated land use approval, staff recommend that the OWEB board provide an additional \$25,000 in grant funds for NCLC to hire a due diligence contractor for the project.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend the Board provide \$227,180 plus \$25,000 and associated indirect costs for project-specific due diligence, for a total grant of \$254,680, in accordance with OWEB’s standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. Staff will consult with NCLC to finalize project-specific conditions. The conditions will be provided to the Board at its April 2018 meeting.

October 19, 2017 OWEB Grant Offering

Land Acquisition Application

Application No.: 218-9904

Project Name: Circle Creek Expansion

Applicant: North Coast Land Conservancy

Region: North Coast

Basin: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$117,400

Total Cost: \$150,440

Application Description [provided by the Applicant]

The Oregon Conservation Strategy highlights the Necanicum River watershed as a Conservation Opportunity Area. With the Circle Creek expansion proposal, NCLC is seeking to advance this conservation priority by protecting in perpetuity an additional 3,000 feet of the Necanicum River and 8.5 acres of floodplain, wetland, and riparian habitat for multiple OWEB priority salmon species. It will augment the 1.7 miles of Necanicum River frontage and 704 adjoining acres protected by the existing Circle Creek and Boneyard Ridge habitat reserves, both OWEB investments. The Circle Creek expansion is the next step in completing a conservation corridor between the Pacific Ocean at Tillamook Head and the east bank of the Necanicum River. As the owner of the land along the opposite bank of the river, NCLC has long viewed this property as a logical expansion of Circle Creek. Intimately connected by the river, the condition of this parcel affects and is effected by the Circle Creek habitat reserve.

Review

Project Soundness

The application requests 100 percent of the estimated purchase price of the property. However, OWEB can contribute only up to 75 percent of the purchase price. Accordingly, NCLC will be required to provide a minimum of 25 percent of the purchase price as match.

The acquisition component of this project is relatively uncomplicated, although NCLC would need to confirm sufficient access for its intended purposes and provide the title review referenced in the application, among other due diligence tasks. The budget does not include sufficient funds for stewardship of the property. While NCLC's effective use of volunteers may offset this apparent deficiency somewhat, the proposed stewardship endowment of \$10,000 is unlikely to earn a return that is adequate for management of the property's high level of invasive species and public use. Accordingly, NCLC should be requested to provide a plan for its long-term stewardship endowment and property management intentions. NCLC should also confirm that its Terra Firma insurance policy will cover this property. Additionally, the OWEB-approved management plan should clearly address all matters of concern for the property, including safe access and public use, to ensure the long-term soundness of the project.

Ecological Outcomes

Reviewers recognized that the Circle Creek Habitat Reserve acquisition project presents an opportunity to add acreage to the existing ecological network of the adjacent Circle Creek Reserve. While it does not necessarily connect additional habitat, it does expand the boundary of the existing conserved area to the east and contributes to the overall health of the watershed by ensuring that the 9-acre addition will remain in a natural state. NCLC has a good track record of providing stewardship in the Necanicum watershed and the acquisition would provide an opportunity for them to more easily manage both sides of the river for invasive species and natural hydrology. Reviewers noted that there is no guarantee that natural processes will be allowed to prevail as long as the 9-acre site remains in private ownership. Reviewers noted that the dynamic nature of Necanicum River will continue to increase as climate change alters seasonal water flows. Securing both sides of the river in the section proposed by this project could help alleviate channel migration if NCLC was able to actively restore and manage the site. It was further noted that, under the stewardship of NCLC, the condition of the native riparian plant communities would be enhanced. They agreed that NCLC ownership would guarantee responsible stewardship in perpetuity and could facilitate restoration opportunities.

Reviewers agreed that the Circle Creek Habitat Reserve is an important conservation property that fulfills multiple ecological targets; however, the size and location of the parcel proposed for addition were reasons for hesitancy. Development is currently prevented on the property due to zoning which protects the parcel in much the same way that an acquisition would. Reviewers stated that the small size of the site and currently degraded habitat condition makes it challenging to adequately address the conservation principles of connectivity and complementing existing ecological networks proposed in the application. It was noted that this 3,000' stretch of the Necanicum River is already zoned upland natural and that the river will undergo channel migration regardless of ownership without active restoration. Acquiring the property will not likely have an impact on the conservation of fish species in the Necanicum and reviewers ranked the property low in benefits to at-risk species.

- Needs and Opportunities: 4 points out of 15 possible points.
- Results and Benefits: 8 points out of 25 possible points.
- Condition and Function: 5 points out of 10 possible points.

Community Benefits and Impacts

The application notes that the property includes a popular fishing hole on the Necanicum River that is accessed from Highway 101, and that NCLC would continue to allow public access for fishing. NCLC also notes that the project would help to continue the ongoing community conversation about conservation of the Necanicum River.

Organizational Capacity

The North Coast Land Conservancy has successfully completed previous OWEB acquisition transaction and reporting requirements and is currently managing other properties in this area. The proposed acquisition aligns with the mission of the organization and is consistent with its conservation strategy. The project

team is well suited to complete this uncomplicated transaction. However, the application lacked details how the applicant will apply its current principles and practices of conservation to this site or how it will take into account site specific considerations, specifically public access and invasive species. Because of these issues the development of the management plan and the long-term site management will be more complex and likely require additional effort above and beyond the organizations other properties.

7 points awarded out of 10 possible points.

Public Review

A public hearing was held at Seaside City Hall on January 9, 2018 with 5 people in attendance. 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:

- NCLC can manage the property in a similar manner to the adjacent preserve.
- Provides walk-in fishing access.
- Guarantees access in perpetuity.
- Keeps the river navigable.
- Provides important habitat in the Necanicum, particularly floodplain habitat during low flow periods.
- Keeps a shaded stretch of river in its natural state.
- The Oregon Conservation Strategy identifies the Necanicum as an Opportunity Area; there are not many places to permanently protect good salmon habitat.

Concerns:

- There is uncertainty over how the existing log jam at the bend in the river will be managed and whether the boundary will be marked in that area. Project partners noted that the boundary will be marked with GPS.

Summary

Total Score: 24 points out of 60 points possible. While the adjacent Circle Creek Preserve is an important conservation property, reviewers felt that the purchase of the additional preserve was not necessary to secure or add to those benefits. The current zoning, configuration of the parcel, and lack of development potential reflect a low risk that conservation values on the site will be lost. The existing preserve provides both conservation value and fishing access to the Necanicum River, without the addition of this parcel.

Staff Recommendation

Based on the evaluation above, staff do not recommend the Board award funding for the Circle Creek Expansion.

October 19, 2017 OWEB Grant Offering

Land Acquisition Application

Application No.: 218-9905

Project Name: Columbia River Estuary – South Tongue Point

Applicant: Columbia Land Trust

Region: North Coast

Basin: Lower Columbia

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$332,334

Total Cost: \$1,252,080

Application Description [provided by the Applicant]

The Columbia River Estuary - South Tongue Point Conservation Project will conserve 90 acres of wildlife habitat on the lower Columbia River Estuary near Astoria, Oregon. The property contains critical wildlife habitat, including 3/4 mile of Columbia River shoreline, 1-1/4 miles of tidal sloughs, 60 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands, and additional forested riparian areas. The project will support 19 federally listed species, including 16 federally threatened and endangered fish stocks, numerous migratory waterfowl and shorebirds, and many other wildlife species. The Project is a collaboration between Columbia Land Trust, Clatsop Community College and Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST). The College's Marine & Environmental Research & Training Station (MERTS) is adjacent to the property and the College will be the landowner. The Land Trust and CREST will support the acquisition, management planning, habitat restoration, monitoring, and stewardship of the site. Beyond its habitat and wildlife benefits, it will provide educational benefits to college students and community members.

Review

Project Soundness

The application states that a larger parcel will need to be partitioned in order for the property to be conveyable to CLT, who will then convey the property to Clatsop Community College (CCC). As outlined in the application, the transaction's framework is unclear. The intended partition process, including specific outcomes, timing, and responsible party should be established, since the transaction appears to hinge on the creation of a legally conveyable parcel for purchase by CLT. OWEB would need to be consulted throughout the partition process, to ensure that the final outcome is consistent with OWEB's requirements. If it can be clarified in a revised title report that the railroad right-of-way is not part of the property, then the title circumstances of the property are relatively uncomplicated. The revised title report should pertain only to the parcel CLT intends to purchase. Some survey work may be needed to accurately locate the eastern boundary of the railroad right-of-way to confirm that dredge fill material was deposited to the west of that boundary. An environmental site assessment is necessary to ensure that prior dredge deposits did not result in contamination on the property. CLT would need to ensure that the deed by which it takes title

is not subject to a mineral reservation or other encumbrances that are inconsistent with OWEB funding. A conveyance agreement, used by OWEB for similar projects, would be necessary for soundly transferring roles and responsibilities from CLT, the buyer, to the proposed long-term owner, Clatsop Community College.

The application states that CCC will own and operate adjacent land as a college campus, and manage the subject property for conservation. While the application notes that CCC currently owns undeveloped natural areas and manages them with a staff of 11 plus contractors, CCC does not currently own or manage conservation property. The draft MOU provided with the application describes very general partner roles in managing the property and, as an MOU, will be non-binding. The application provides that College resources will be used for long-term management; however, this does not provide the long-term assurance that a stewardship endowment would provide. The stewardship endowment mentioned in the application may adequately address this problem, but, there are not sufficient details about the likelihood of securing the intended endowment, the funding objective, and the endowment manager. Given the significant amount of grant funds being requested, the OWEB board should consider including a grant condition that requires a provision in the deed that facilitates a smooth transfer of ownership to CLT or a qualified entity approved by OWEB in the event that it becomes apparent that the CCC is not the appropriate long-term manager of the property.

Ecological Outcomes

Reviewers agree that acquisition of this 90-acre property would provide habitat benefits to threatened and endangered fish and would provide long-term conservation stability to this project area within the lower Columbia watershed. Without permanent protection, the property would remain under threat of industrial development due to its zoning. Reviewers noted that the site is strategically located in an important part of the estuary where freshwater transitions to saltwater. Its location also complements the existing network of preserved areas. Numerous state and federal salmon recovery plans identify floodplain and tidal wetlands in the Columbia River as critical to recovery efforts. Lack of off-channel rearing habitat has been identified as a critical limiting factor to salmon recovery. In addition to salmon, the project has the potential to benefit other species, specifically eulachon, sturgeon, and Columbia white-tailed deer. Reviewers agreed that the existing property provides benefits to fish and wildlife species from the habitat that is currently available. The intact nature of the site, along with the wetlands, tidal sloughs, and other habitat features are important attributes of the property.

While the acquisition is a benefit in and of itself, reviewers noted that the acquisition alone does not necessarily restore function to the site. Many of the benefits stated in the application are related more to the future proposed enhancement work than to the proposed acquisition. Specifically, they felt that the biodiversity value of the property in its current state is overstated, but that it has exceptional biodiversity potential after restoration actions are taken. Reviewers did note that the acquisition is important to maintain the current habitat that does exist, and to provide an opportunity for enhancement, management, and maintenance of habitat values over the long term. It was noted that funding for the restoration could be challenging to secure because of the specific cost/benefit ratio necessary for BPA restoration funding. Specifically, previous restoration proposals at the site have not achieved fundable cost/benefit ratios due, in part, to the high cost of excavating dredge materials on the site.

- Needs and Opportunities: 13 points out of 15 possible points.

- Results and Benefits: 17 points out of 25 possible points.
- Condition and Function: 7 points out of 10 possible points.

Community Benefits and Impacts

The application describes the project as integral to a network of interconnected conservation lands in the lower Columbia Estuary that supports a healthy natural environment that is foundational to local rural communities' well-being. As part of the MERTS campus, there is great potential for educational opportunities in a "living laboratory" setting. The property will provide opportunities for CLT's robust volunteer program, furthering a conservation ethic in the community. Due to the proximity of the property to a college campus, hunting by land is unlikely; however, hunting will continue on adjacent public waters.

Organizational Capacity

CLT is the applicant and will complete the acquisition process. CLT is accredited by the National Land Trust Alliance, has successfully completed previous OWEB acquisition transaction and reporting requirements, and is well suited to complete this transaction.

CCC is intended to be the long-term land manager for the site. Though the college owns property, they do not manage any property with conservation easements and do not have staff with relevant expertise. The college is proposing to address this lack of expertise through partnering with CLT for the development of the conservation easement and baseline and management plan development. The college will also partner with CREST for design and implementation of restoration action on the site. However, the application does not address how the college will ensure long-term management and protection or how it will ensure adequate financial resources for the long-term management and monitoring.

As noted above, staff recommend measures to ensure long-term protection of the OWEB investment given the uncertainty about CCC's capacity for managing conservation property.

- 6 points awarded out of 10 possible points.

Public Review

A public hearing was held January 9, 2018 at the Astoria City Hall with 8 people in attendance. 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:

- The project supports recovery of listed native fish species, including salmon from the Columbia, Willamette, Snake, and Deschutes ESUs.
- The project provides an educational opportunity for the community to gain a broad understanding of this type of habitat and what the property contributes.
- This is an opportunity for long-term research projects.
- A good partnership of 3 community organizations.
- Provides protection in perpetuity for the benefit of the college, the community, and the ecosystem; there is a development threat.

- The College is very important to the community, with 1,400 students in a town of 10,000.

Concerns:

- No concerns were mentioned.

Messages for the Board:

- A representative of the College wanted the Board to know that the College was very excited about this opportunity.

Summary

Total Score: 43 points out of 60 points possible. CLT is an accredited and experienced land trust with the capacity to successfully complete the transaction. In its current state, the property contains valuable habitat for fish and wildlife, including tidal wetlands and sloughs. Some restoration will be required to fully restore ecological function to the site. While the proposed long-term owner, CCC, currently manages undeveloped land in its natural state, and has the resources to do so, it has not managed conservation property. Plans for a stewardship endowment are under development, but are unclear at this time.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend the Board award \$332,080 in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. This recommended award is \$254 less than requested due to correcting an error in the indirect cost calculation. Staff will consult with CLT to finalize project-specific conditions. The conditions will be provided to the Board at its April 2018 meeting.

October 19, 2017 OWEB Grant Offering

Land Acquisition Application

Application No.: 218-9906

Project Name: Canyon Creek Ranch Conservation Easement

Applicant: Blue Mountain Land Trust

Region: Mid-Columbia

Basin: John Day

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: \$1,400,064

Total Cost: \$2,731,038

Application Description [provided by the Applicant]

Blue Mountain Land Trust (BMLT) proposes to acquire and monitor a Conservation Easement on Canyon Creek Ranch, a privately owned 6,785-acre working ranch close to the Painted Hills Unit of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. The project will maintain, restore, and preserve habitat for fish and wildlife, including 3.1 miles of habitat for ESA-listed summer steelhead on Bear Creek and upland sagebrush and grassland habitat. Canyon Creek Ranch provides landscape connectivity between Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service lands and private lands for upland species. The Conservation Easement will guide long-term management of the Property to preserve and enhance in-stream, riparian, and upland habitat and contribute to the local resiliency for climate change impacts, while allowing continued ranching on the Property. The landowners have been working diligently with conservation partners to enhance and restore the ranch since 2000, and are committed to continuing with permanent protection under a conservation easement with Blue Mountain Land Trust.

Review

Project Soundness

Many of the transactional circumstances of this project are the same as when previously evaluated for application no. 217-9903-14126, which was awarded to a different applicant and subsequently cancelled due to lack of landowner support for working with the previous applicant. As noted in the previous review, title analysis and follow-up would need to be conducted for the property, including but not limited to removal of the mineral reservations from the title. The verbal agreement for grazing would need to be converted to a written agreement during the due diligence period, with the agreement clearly requiring the lessee's compliance with the terms and conditions of the conservation easement in the future. The project budget would need to be clarified, as it appears that the stated appraisal cost may be unnecessarily high, and the boundary survey line item is not explained in the application. The draft conservation easement would require revisions in order to ensure project outcomes that are consistent with the purpose of OWEB's funding. Revisions would include but not necessarily be limited to: (i) ensuring that the easement's primary purpose is protection of the property's conservation values; (ii) fully integrating OWEB and NRCS

provisions in the body of the easement; (iii) clearly defining conservation value zones and ecological performance goals associated with the zones; and (iv) ensuring compatibility with requirements of the CREP program as needed. BMLT is a small organization that would benefit from contracted assistance with this effort, as proposed in the application. Like many conservation easements, this project will require significant and sustained effort to be soundly implemented.

The application did not provide sufficient detail about the stewardship fund. This detail would need to be provided, including the amount of the investment and confirmation that the projected investment returns will fund both the basic compliance and the ecological monitoring intended by the parties for the long-term. BMLT should ensure that the conservation easement will be added to the organization's Terra Firma insurance policy at or before closing, and demonstrate the financial resources to pay for the policy over time. If a management plan will be composed of several plans, the plans must be developed in a manner that ensures consistency among the plan components and the conservation easement.

Ecological Outcomes

This large-scale property (6,785 acres) is a unique opportunity to protect high-quality riparian, floodplain and upland sage steppe ecosystems from both development and degradation of functioning systems. The property is located next to Eastern Oregon's Painted Hills National Monument and a large tract of BLM lands that also contain unique landforms of colorful ash deposits. Its close proximity to a main east-west highway system (Highway 26) makes the site attractive for potential of rural/recreational home sites, which would result in fragmentation of the landscape. This conservation easement would also protect numerous restoration investments that have been implemented since the property was first purchased by the current landowners in 2000.

Because of the size of the property, quality habitat for ESA-listed steelhead and other aquatic and terrestrial wildlife would be protected and critical connectivity to adjacent large-landscape habitat units assured. The application clearly explained the riparian site characteristics, but would have been stronger if it had included more detail on the upland grassland and sage steppe ecosystems, including the specific grass, shrub, and forb species present, and on other wildlife species that use this property. This should be fully developed during the baseline inventory, using an experienced ecologist who is familiar with the arid sage steppe ecosystems of the John Day Basin.

Stream flow has been identified as a limiting factor on this property. Restoration currently being implemented and planned for the future are designed with specific objectives of improving stream flows, as well as overall ecosystem resiliency and water quality. The management plan should include objectives of protecting vegetation along the riparian corridors consistent with mid-Columbia steelhead recovery plans; reconnecting floodplains to store floodwaters and improve communities of riparian hardwoods; keeping encroaching junipers from re-establishing on sage steppe grasslands; and maintaining the existing diversity of the sage steppe grass, forbs and shrub communities. Past and planned restoration actions on the property are consistent with and broaden the impact of similar actions taken downstream on Bear Creek, Bridge Creek, and the John Day River.

The application states that the management plan will include components for each of the proposed easement zones: riparian, rangeland, and agricultural, and that monitoring to ensure ecological outcomes will be done by contracted rangeland and riparian experts. The likelihood of success on this conservation

easement is high based on the conservation and restoration partnerships developed over the years, assuring that the mutual objectives of protecting the highest quality habitats and continuing to make improvements to the ecological processes on this ranch will occur. This area is ranked as a high priority in several planning documents, including the *Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan*, and the Natures Conservancy *Pacific Northwest's Resilience Landscapes Assessment* that noted this area was within the "far above average ecoregional or ecofacet resilience area."

- Needs and Opportunities: 12 points out of 15 possible points.
- Results and Benefits: 22 points out of 25 possible points.
- Condition and Function: 7 points out of 10 possible points.

Community Benefits and Impacts

The application states that the John Day Basin will continue to benefit from well-managed working lands that not only contribute to the local agricultural economy, but also provide open and scenic areas and support fish and wildlife populations that enhance the quality of life and draw visitors from across the country. Continued private ownership of the property will ensure that property taxes continue to be paid on the property. Tax revenue is a concern in Wheeler County, which ranks 34 out of the 36 counties in Oregon in per capita income.

The project is an opportunity to demonstrate success of the working lands concept, where historical agricultural uses complement enhanced natural resource value. A neighboring ranch was recently divided into 90 parcels averaging 74 acres/parcel. The project will ensure that Canyon Creek Ranch remains intact in perpetuity.

Recent restoration activities on the ranch have improved flow from the Bear Creek drainage into the Lower John Day River, an important recreational asset that provides economic stimulus to local economies, particularly in the summer months when low flows have the largest impacts.

The project site has recently served as an educational resource for natural resource professionals by demonstrating Beaver Dam Analog installations, a practice that is likely to be installed in similar situations throughout the basin.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs is an active partner in the project, and has committed \$500,000 in restoration projects through 2019. Archeological surveys on the property have shown that the site includes a number of prehistoric and historic resources. Continued survey work on the property is planned.

Organizational Capacity

Blue Mountain Land Trust is a new applicant to OWEB's Acquisition grant program. It is a small organization that recently expanded into Grant County to address a local need. BMLT has limited financial resources, but the proposed conservation easement aligns well with the mission and geographic scope of the organization. BMLT includes staff with legal backgrounds and sufficient expertise to successfully complete the transactional aspects of the proposed project. Given the complexities inherent in negotiating an easement that is satisfactory to both OWEB and the other major funder, NRCS, while meeting the needs

of the landowners, the application indicates that BMLT will contract for additional easement negotiation support and the budget request includes sufficient funds for this work.

Blue Mountain Land Trust lacks natural resources expertise, which is critical for ensuring that the conservation values of the property are included and protected in the conservation easement and monitored and defended over time. This lack of expertise within the organization is partially addressed through the stewardship team BMLT has built for this project. The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation will provide in-kind match to develop a riparian management plan and conduct riparian and stream restoration and monitoring. Contracted funds and NRCS in-kind match are included in the project budget to develop a rangeland management plan. However, BMLT still needs to ensure that the desired natural resource outcomes will be achieved by the conservation easement and the management plan. The OWEB board should consider requiring BMLT to secure land defense insurance for the easement before or at closing, to ensure that BMLT has resources to address any enforcement matters that arise. BMLT should also provide additional information about the stewardship endowment and the entities responsible for implementing the management plan.

- 7 points awarded out of 10 possible points.

Public Review

A public hearing was held January 17, 2018 at Community Hall in Mitchell, with 13 people in attendance. Public comments received were as follows:

Strengths

- Good to have wildlife connectivity between BLM and other neighboring land.
- The restoration that has been done on the ranch has been beneficial even to neighbors, for instance the extensive juniper removal has reduced the fuel load and wildfire danger from neighboring properties.
- The work done on the riparian areas has been good and will help increase Bear Creek flows.
- The riparian work to enhance beaver habitat is great, beavers are good to have in areas they don't become a nuisance. This ranch is a good place for them.
- It is nice to keep it as a ranch and still allow grazing, but with conditions that will keep the grass in great shape.

Concerns

- Will the property be taken off the tax rolls? *Answer: The property will stay zoned as EFU and be required to pay taxes.*
- Is the Blue Mountain Land Trust affiliated with the government? *Answer: Blue Mountain Land Trust is a non-profit organization that gets its funding from private donors, fundraising, grants and some funds from each acquisition or easement they hold.*

Summary

Total Score: 48 points out of 60 points possible. This project presents a unique opportunity to protect a large tract containing significant fish and wildlife habitat, while at the same time providing for the continuation agricultural operations. The property has a lengthy history of management incorporating

habitat restoration and this project will provide a high likelihood of continuing on that trajectory. The specific terms of the conservation easement will be critical to ensuring that the ecologic values inherent to the property will be maintained in perpetuity. As provided for in the proposed project budget, the applicant intends to hire additional expertise to complete the complex easement negotiation and coordination of project partners necessary for a successful project.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend the Board award BMLT \$1,422,574 in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. This recommended award is \$22,510 higher than requested due to correcting an error in the indirect cost calculation. Staff will consult with BMLT to finalize project-specific conditions. The conditions will be provided to the Board at its April 2018 meeting.

October 19, 2017 OWEB Grant Offering

Land Acquisition Application

Application No.: 218-9907

Project Name: Yachats Habitat Preserve

Applicant: City of Yachats

Region: North Coast

Basin: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$400,000

Total Cost: \$1,088,000

Application Description [provided by the Applicant]

The City of Yachats is a place where natural resources are valued and protected. In this spirit, a team comprised of relevant real estate experience and expertise in managing local natural resources has convened for the proposed Yachats Habitat Preserve. The 29-acre Yachats Habitat Preserve encompasses the junction of the Yachats Estuary and Yachats River. The proposed funding strategy appropriately leverages local and state capacity and reflects the project's combination of ecological, recreational, and community benefits.

The Yachats Habitat Preserve is an opportunity to complement existing ecological networks, secure a transition area, protect riverine habitats for federally listed salmon, and safeguard maturing forests. As such, the Yachats Habitat Preserve is poised to offer numerous ecological and community benefits. While the forest currently supports habitat for marbled murrelet and northern spotted owls, once protected and appropriately managed, many of the trees could develop structures suitable for marbled murrelet nests. Limited passive recreational opportunities for both residents and tourists offers the community benefit of access to a riverside park and an increase in recreation-based economic activity. The vision of the Yachats Habitat Preserve is emblematic of the community's vision and character.

Review

Project Soundness

The acquisition component of this project is complex and includes a lot line adjustment whereby unimproved land will be added to property already owned by the City of Yachats. The lot line adjustment will require a survey, development of a legal description for the land being proposed for purchase with OWEB funds, and establishment of an access easement, and a potentially complicated appraisal due to the structure of the transaction. The transaction's framework is further complicated by plans for The Trust for Public Land (TPL) to purchase a larger parcel than is anticipated for the OWEB funds, complete the lot line adjustment and land use approval processes, and in doing so, sell the smaller, unimproved parcel to the City and sell the remainder parcel to the private marketplace. Under this arrangement, the City, OWEB's

grantee, would use OWEB funds to purchase the property from TPL rather than from the current owner. This transactional structure would require the City to be responsible for meeting OWEB requirements for the transaction, but they are not responsible for conducting the transaction. Establishing roles and processes for communication between the City, TPL, and OWEB would be essential.

The application did not provide a clear or unified vision for how the property will be used, which impacts the strength of the project's long-term soundness. Potential uses cited by the project partners include construction of an access road to adjacent land and development of recreational infrastructure such as a dog park, boat launch, picnic area, river viewing area, and trails. While the City dedicates 17.4% of its budget to conservation and parks, the property faces challenges such as weeds, potential unauthorized uses, and potential infrastructure and park impacts. The proposed park uses and road construction are not a good fit for the conservation easement OWEB places on properties purchased in fee simple. The application indicates that the City will rely on a local volunteer group, View the Future (VTF) for stewardship of the property. VTF currently has three conservation easements in its portfolio, and plans to raise funds for a stewardship endowment. It is uncertain from the application whether stewardship of the property would be prioritized over developing and maintaining park amenities and road infrastructure.

Ecological Outcomes

Reviewers felt that the project presents an opportunity to improve the ecological function of the mainstem of the Yachats River. The acquisition would establish a hard boundary to the spread of urban growth and provide an opportunity to improve water quality in a profoundly impaired region of the lower river. Reviewers noted that potential residential development of the property would greatly compromise the proposed ecological outcomes, making permanent protection of the property important. Acquisition of the project area would facilitate access for the City across the property -- access that is necessary for the construction of a new water storage facility on an adjacent City-owned site. The new water storage facility, once constructed, would allow for less flow diversion during critical summer low flows, which could potentially address the water quality issues in the mainstem Yachats River. Reviewers felt that even a slight increase in river flow in the summer could flush out salt water and prevent the red algae blooms that regularly occur during the summer low flow conditions. If summer water quality can be improved, benefit to anadromous fish could be expected, as Coho, Chinook, steelhead, and Pacific Lamprey migrate through the project area. It was also noted that as the forest matures, the ecological value could increase.

Although reviewers felt that the project site has potential benefits, they agreed that the small size of the project and its direct adjacency to a development across the river limits the significance of its impact to the conserved properties in the central coast region. A continuous connection to the Siuslaw National Forest Lands at Cape Perpetua would be preferable. Much of the project's benefit to water quality is also connected to the City's plans to construct a water storage facility on a nearby property. However, it is uncertain at this time whether the water storage facility would tip the balance greatly enough to resolve the red algae blooms currently plaguing the river and doing so requires impacting the property proposed for acquisition by constructing a road through the riparian corridor.

It was noted that while increased summer flows could improve water quality, aside from invasive weed treatment, no other restoration is proposed. Reviewers would have liked to see additional restoration actions to support and enhance aquatic habitat, such as riparian willow planting or the addition of large wood. It was noted that the project as proposed is inconsistent with the goals of the Yachats River

Conservation Area in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, which recommends reducing road density and access along streams and wetlands. They expressed concern over the planned development of the road, trails, and dog park on the property and felt that the ecological benefits would be greater if the project kept the land as a habitat preserve. Of particular concern were the plans to construct an access road through the riparian area of the property. The site of the planned road discussed and reviewed on the site visit would require extensive streambank hardening and landscape modification and runs less than 20 feet from the streambank of the river. At a minimum, they suggested relocating the proposed access road out of the riparian area. The importance of the project to anadromous fish may have also been overstated in the application. The reach of the Yachats River associated with the project site is important habitat for some anadromous fish juveniles to escape high water flows and serves as a migratory corridor, but the acquisition could have little effect on aquatic habitat if the water quality issues that currently restrict fish use are not resolved by the improvements to the water system of the City, of which plans at this time are unclear. Reviewers also pointed out that, while some Chinook ESU's are threatened, this ESU is not. They also expressed that the potential of the site for Marbled Murrelet and Spotted Owl habitat may have been overestimated given the current forest stand condition, the close proximity to the city, and that the proposed recreational and city uses of the property would invite increased predation by corvids. Reviewers noted that beyond maintenance of the planned access road and recreational improvements- long term management needs are minimal and limited to invasive weed control and the access road, and that the guaranteed long term management by the City is a positive aspect of the project.

- Needs and Opportunities: 4 points out of 15 possible points.
- Results and Benefits: 7 points out of 25 possible points.
- Condition and Function: 4 points out of 10 possible points.

Community Benefits and Impacts

The City of Yachats recognizes the importance of outdoor recreation to its main economic driver, which is tourism. Working with View the Future, trails in the city are part of a regional network of trails connecting the town, coastline, Cape Perpetua Scenic Area, and Siuslaw National Forest. Once protected, the subject property will offer an accessible and sheltered trail connected to this network. The northern part of the property is envisioned as a low-impact park with a paddle craft launch.

Another community benefit is the potential to provide access to adjacent city land for construction of municipal drinking water facilities, which could result in proved drinking water quality and security, and potentially, improved summer flows in the Yachats River.

Organizational Capacity

The City of Yachats is a new applicant to OWEB's Acquisition grant program. The City has a strong natural resource ethic and the City Council is in support of this project. The city currently manages 45 acres of land and has policies for short and long-term management. The City plans to partner with a local non-profit, View the Future, for long-term management. While the City does not have experience managing a property with a conservation easement, it has a collaborative partnership with View the Future with regard to trails management and outdoor recreation. There is currently no formal agreement in place between the

City and the local non-profit for planning and management at the site. Without a clearly defined long-term vision for the site and clear roles and responsibilities for all partners, long-term management and protection will be very challenging. If funded, OWEB would recommend the development of a partnership agreement that addresses the shared roles and responsibilities of the partners relative to long-term stewardship of the property and the funding needed to achieve desired stewardship outcomes.

The City has accomplished previous land acquisitions, and has a history of partnering with other groups to complete the transactional components. For this project the City is partnering with Trust for Public Lands, who has sufficient expertise, to complete this complicated transaction on behalf of the City.

- 4 points awarded out of 10 possible points.

Public Review

A public hearing was held January 29, 2018 at Yachats City Hall, with 30 people in attendance. 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:

- Extends trail network and provides an attractive outdoor destination.
- Vital protection of the estuary in perpetuity.
- Preserves salmon habitat in the estuary and in the Yachats River.
- Protects important visual element in town.
- Safe/efficient kayak access.
- Vital linkage from riparian area to protected marine area.
- Wind-protected park for public to enjoy the river from the north bank.
- Fits the values expressed in the community vision statement.
- Protects forestland, including old growth and murrelet habitat.
- Prevents high density development on the river.
- Benefits local hiker/outdoor recreationists.
- Helps stabilize tourism economy.
- Out of the wind destination for artists.
- Classroom for public natural resource education.
- Greenspace within city limits.
- Potential for access to city property for long-term water security and improved river flows.
- Managed kayak use.
- Could leverage WRD funds for a feasibility study for water supply storage.
- City could avoid water use curtailments during low flow periods.
- Precludes development, including new technologies and construction concepts that we are unaware of today.
- Protect land now; restoration will be more costly in the future.
- The town has an excellent trails committee to manage and maintain trails.
- Protection of wildlife habitat.

- City control of the land is better than the alternatives.
- Provides ownership of areas that are used, but not managed currently.
- Protecting greenspace within city boundaries is good for public health.
- Development of the property is likely.

Concerns:

- This is a solution to a problem that does not exist.
- A park will bring more people to the river.
- Will require trash pickup without resources.
- Unrealistic that the property would be developed.
- More kayakers on the river could result in more clearing of riparian vegetation and large wood.
- Taking R-1 residentially zoned land out of development potential when the city has a housing problem.
The city is not looking for alternative R-1 land.

Summary

Total Score: 19 points out of 60 points possible. The City of Yachats has an active network of municipal officials, non-profit organizations, and volunteers dedicated to continuing and improving the city's connection to the outdoors and the associated tourism economy. There is great support for recreational opportunities, including hiking trails and boating access to the river, clean drinking water, and great recognition of the value of natural resources to the local economy. While the project site has potential benefits, ecological reviewers noted that the value of the project for habitat protection and restoration is limited, and the value for improved stream flows that could be obtained from a future water storage facility is uncertain. Also, a potential access road through the subject property to serve such a facility would degrade the value of the riparian area that the preserve is designed to protect. The application lists as pending match a Local Government Grant from Oregon State Parks. Given the community support for the project and the high potential for active recreational uses on the property, that program is a good fit for this project. The potential ecological gains from the project do not warrant OWEB investment at this time.

Staff Recommendation

Based on the evaluation above, staff do not recommend the Board award funding for the Yachats Preserve project.

October 19, 2017 OWEB Grant Offering

Land Acquisition Application

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Application No.: | 218-9908 | | |
| Project Name: | Caledonia Woodlands | | |
| Applicant: | Klamath Lake Land Trust | Region: | Central Oregon |
| Basin: | Klamath | County: | Klamath |
| OWEB Request: | \$1,573,965 | Total Cost: | \$2,082,957 |

Application Description [provided by the Applicant]

The Caledonia Woodlands, next door to the Running Y resort, is one of the last Oregon white oak-conifer woodlands east of the Cascade Mountains and supports over 80 bird species, most of which are at risk due to loss of available habitat. Caledonia Woodlands consists of 300 acres of mixed Oregon white oak and conifer stands. Oak woodland and Ponderosa Pine are both priority ecological systems and rare plant communities in the OWEB Klamath Basin ecological priority list. Caledonia holds a wide variety of bird species – surveyed by Klamath Bird Observatory - including white-headed, acorn, Lewis’ and pileated woodpeckers, mountain quail, as well as a suite of Neotropical migrants (e.g., olive-sided flycatcher), and nesting bald eagles. Other animals on the property, benefitting from the oak stands, include black bear, black tailed deer, grey fox, grey and Douglas squirrels, coyotes, raccoons, skunks, woodrat and rabbits. The Caledonia Woodlands are managed using restoration based forestry, which has included thinning and burning to restore historic conditions. Seated within the resort development overlay of Klamath County, Caledonia Woodlands is next to the Volcanic Scenic Byway, and viewed by thousands of people each day. The land is also along the Klamath Basin Birding Trail, and in the heart of the Pacific Flyway, which is the most important migratory corridor for birds in North America.

Review

Project Soundness

The acquisition component of this project is complex as a result of the number of landowners and title exceptions, as well as complex vesting and appraisal processes, combined with negotiations regarding a purchase agreement and the draft conservation easement, all of which will require significant effort and skill to complete in a sound manner. KLLT enjoys a strong relationship with several of the landowners, but

is a small organization with limited resources. The OWEB Board should consider granting additional funds to KLLT for contracted assistance with due diligence.

KLLT's financial resources are particularly limited. It appears that KLLT's time estimates for stewardship activities may need to include more time for conducting ecological enhancement projects, monitoring outcomes and property conditions, and updating the management plan over time. It is unclear from the application whether the landowners will engage with the full range of stewardship activities, such as controlled fire, that may be necessary to conserve the property's oak resources over time, or how the activities will be funded. The proposed stewardship fund for the easement is approximately one percent of the estimated purchase price, which is low to earn a return that is adequate for stewardship. KLLT should provide a plan for securing an adequate stewardship fund, including information about the projected investment returns and operating or other funds that may be available to cover additional project costs. Further, KLLT should obtain conservation land defense insurance at or before closing, and demonstrate the financial resources to pay for the insurance policy over time.

Ecological Outcomes

- Needs and Opportunities: 12 points out of 15 possible points.

The property's location suggests a strategic conservation easement opportunity given its habitat is the eastern most edge of Oregon White oak combined with mixed conifer, supporting an array of diverse wildlife species. Since the property is directly adjacent to the Running Y Ranch, a large resort development, it could be seen as attractive for future development.

- Results and Benefits: 20 points out of 25 possible points.

The conservation principles described by the applicant were accurate and consistent with their description of how this easement would meet ecological priorities for the area. The property is uniquely placed, offers rare habitat value in Klamath County, and currently is in fair to good ecological condition. The burn scar area limits the effectiveness of this project, where much work is needed to re-establish ponderosa pine and oak communities. Permanent protection of the site will likely increase the priority for planning and restoration work.

- Condition and Function: 7 points out of 10 possible points.

The property's current ecological condition is ranked fair to good. The burn scar area could benefit from active restoration management actions such as planting, brush thinning, and juniper removal. Prescribed burning may also be needed to sustain the present oak community; it is unclear whether this management type would be supported by the landowners. The overall potential for success of restoration management is good and would have strong ecological outcomes and long term value.

Community Benefits and Impacts

Located only 7 miles from Klamath Falls, the property can provide recreational, ecological, and financial benefits to the community. As the region transitions to include tourism as a major economic driver, conservation land becomes more important to the local economy. Caledonia Woodlands is located directly on the Klamath Basin Birding Trail, which reaches from Crater Lake into northern California and attracts numerous visitors to the region.

The Klamath Tribal government supports the project. Tribal members have participated on restoration work crews on the property, and the landowners have expressed a willingness to work with the Klamath Tribes to create opportunities for interested tribal members to gather traditional food sources. The Klamath Indians have hunted, fished, and foraged in the area from time immemorial. The location of the Caledonia forested “hill land” indicates an area of heavy use by native peoples. The property is abundant with nut, berry, and root crops that are traditional food sources, including serviceberry, bitter cherry, chokecherry, Klamath plum, and thimbleberry. Acorns from Oregon white oaks were a main staple by many native peoples of the region.

Organizational Capacity

Klamath Lake Land Trust is a new applicant to OWEB’s Acquisition grant program. The proposed acquisition aligns well with the mission and geographic scope of the organization and they are the right organization for the long-term management of this property. Klamath Lake Land Trust is a small organization that has limited staff and financial capacity. Historically the land trust has relied on volunteer board time and partner resources to complete transactions. The Caledonia Woodlands proposed acquisition is a very complex transaction, with multiple landowners and title issues. In order to ensure the land trust has adequate resources to complete the transaction process it is recommended that they contract for assistance with negotiations, title work, and appraisal procurement. In addition, it is unclear from the application if the stewardship team has adequate expertise to ensure the long-term management and protection of the site. In order to ensure the land trust has adequate support and resources for stewardship OWEB recommends the land trust contract for assistance with conservation easement drafting, long-term management, and monitoring.

- 4 points awarded out of 10 possible points.

Public Review

A public hearing on the application was held January 29, 2018 at Klamath Falls City Hall with 11 people in attendance. The following public comments were received:

Strengths:

- This is the Eastern most extent of Oregon White Oak in Southern Oregon. This plant community is mixed in with a variety of conifer species as well, which as a whole presents a very diverse vegetative community that inherently offers habitats for a diverse suite of wildlife.
- The vegetation on-site is in good condition. A previous forest management plan was prepared and partially implemented using local and Tribal personnel. After the forest restoration, surveys indicated the bird response increased.
- While the adjacent Running Y ranch has developed the area, it was noted that they left a lot of legacy trees in place that could provide perching or nesting. This accompanies the quality habitat at Caledonia, particularly for eagles and raptors. These species do not like to fly over open water, so these diverse wooded habitats offer a lot of value for these species. Surveys have shown this property to be located in a common pathway for eagles and raptors.
- Recently, lichen surveys have been done on the property. One species of lichen that is listed in Oregon was found on the property. Given the diversity of habitats, this provides more niches for different lichens to occur. Lichens are known for being key indicators of air quality. Currently, DNA samples have been collected to further understand their presence, occurrence, and environmental factors on the property.
- There is interest from the community to have recreation offered at the site. Community members felt recreation access and led nature walks would be a great asset to learn more about the unique plant communities and habitats. There is a vision for trail and public use but it needs to be managed in a way to protect the habitat and landowner preference. The landowner's big concern is wildfire.
- Recently, the local chapter of the Native Plant Society led a tour out to Skillet handle, just north of this property, which also hosts the edge of Oregon white oak communities, and was strongly attended and garnered a lot of interest. There is also restoration work being done on Skillet handle by Lomakatsi to encourage Oak release and habitat improvements. This can elevate the importance of protecting Caledonia.
- Botanically, the site offers great diversity. The adjacent Running Y ranch has open space that harbors native flora. The protection of this site will add value, particularly hosting species that benefit pollinators and other wildlife.
- There is strong support from local conservation groups, as such, who are eager and interested in visiting and protecting the property for its conservation value.
- This CE would provide stabil protection of critical habitat for a suite of bird species, because of the unique plant communities. Over 80 different species have been documented on the property. This would also protect land for future generations, which is ever so important with such an uncertain future of potential development in Klamath County.
- There was question whether this project would open up any doors for potential wetland fringe restoration on the property just to the North of Caledonia. That is a different private landowner. It was noted that the area just to the North is a certified organic farm and may be interested in wetland restoration.
- This property is a good addition to another Oak community site on Skillet Handle (which apparently does not have permanent protection).

- It was noted that Klamath Lake Land Trust are well suited for this project, have the infrastructure in place with an active board and volunteer group list. Community involvement in this type of work is already in place. The mechanisms to effectively manage and sustain this CE are in place w/KLLT, its board, volunteers, and the conservation community in Klamath.
- The property offers nine different vegetative types. Previous fires have done some good and some bad to the site.
- There is a strong cultural connection to the property, given the habitat and situation in the landscape. Wocus, a native wetland plant, would have been very abundant in the wetlands to the North and South of Calendonia. Native American presence has been well documented on the Skillet handle, suspect similar type features and uses were present at Calendonia.
- It was noted that the Oregon White oak habitats found in the Willamette Valley are vastly different than those found here in Southern Klamath County. There are current DNA studies on-going to understand this difference which could shed light on future management needs to protect the habitat. What may work in one place may not work in another. Oak seedlings are documented on the site, stating regeneration is occurring.
- The question was asked regarding how old the Oak trees were on the property. The means to do this analysis is invasive typically using core samples, which is not recommended for Oaks. Exact age is unknown, but fire scars could be a good way to do this. An 1858 survey of the area noted a 30" Oak tree on the property. Current oak trees onsite present a variety of growth habitats, including single trunk and multi-stem.

Concerns:

None.

Summary

Total Score: 43 points out of 60 points possible. The project provides a unique opportunity to conserve key habitat in the Klamath region. While some restoration is needed due to a recent burn scar, the property provides excellent habitat in its current condition and is on a restoration trajectory. Due to the complexities of the transaction, it is likely that additional resources will be needed to complete project due diligence and negotiate a conservation easement. This can be accomplished within the requested budget by shifting \$50,000 allocated for a Phase 2 environmental assessment, which is likely unnecessary, to pay for these contracted services. A detailed stewardship plan is also needed to ensure adequate resources for managing the property and monitoring the easement.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend the Board award KLLT \$1,584,892 in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement. This recommended award is \$10,927 higher than requested due to correcting an error in the indirect cost calculation. Staff will consult with KLLT to finalize project-specific conditions. The conditions will be provided to the Board at its April 2018 meeting.

October 19, 2017 OWEB Grant Offering

Land Acquisition Application

Application No.: 218-9909

Project Name: Bennett Ranch Sage Grouse Conservation Easement

Applicant: Blue Mountain Land Trust

Region: Eastern Oregon

Basin: Powder

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$819,240

Total Cost: \$3,222,125

Application Description [provided by the Applicant]

The Bennett Ranch Sage Grouse Conservation Easement is a rare opportunity to permanently protect almost 9,000 acres of high-quality sagebrush and riparian habitat in Eastern Oregon. The cattle ranch is a unique combination of viable and sustainable sagebrush shrub-steppe habitats in the uplands, and high-quality riparian habitats in the lowlands. Immediately adjacent to three leks, the property supports a population of about 50 Greater sage grouse, which are federally listed as threatened. Onsite streams support a native population of year-long redband trout, which are a sensitive aquatic species. With support from OWEB, the Bennetts have worked tirelessly to improve and restore habitat on their ranch, are now partnering with the Blue Mountain Land Trust to protect their investments in perpetuity.

Review

Project Soundness

The application does not clearly describe the transaction's framework, or roles, responsibilities, and commitments. BMLT intends to use the services of The Trust for Public Land (TPL) to acquire the property, although it is unclear how TPL would be compensated. Further, it is unclear whether TPL intends to acquire the conservation easement and transfer it to BMLT, or, alternatively, to assign its option rights to BMLT, with BMLT to acquire the easement directly from the landowner. The latter is recommended, to avoid the time and expense of developing a purchase-and-transfer transaction structure. Further, as the applicant and ultimate easement holder, BMLT needs to be an active member of the negotiating team, so that it has a firsthand understanding of the landowner's interests and intentions, and establishes the relationship framework that will be necessary to monitor and enforce the easement. Given BMLT's intended involvement in the Canyon Ranch project, the organization will require the resources necessary to complete both projects simultaneously should both projects be funded.

While the landowner has successfully implemented substantial restoration actions on the property, BMLT and the landowner need to establish roles, responsibilities, and a funding approach for future management and stewardship of the ecological resources to ensure success of a conservation easement project.

The application indicates that the landowner may expect to complete the transaction in a timeframe (6 months for completing the easement and appraisal) that is inconsistent with the amount of time and effort it would take to soundly develop the easement and complete other due diligence. The draft conservation easement will require revisions in order to ensure project outcomes that are consistent with the purpose of OWEB's funding. Revisions include but are not necessarily be limited to: (i) ensuring that the easement's primary purpose is protection of the property's conservation values; (ii) fully integrating OWEB and NRCS provisions in the body of the easement; and (iii) clearly defining conservation value zones and ecological performance goals associated with the zones. BMLT and TPL appear to need contracted assistance for developing ecological performance goals. OWEB would complete a full review of the conservation easement if the Board opts to award funds for the project, with such review likely to identify additional items for revision. The deed of trust on the property's title would have to be paid off or subordinated to the conservation easement.

The long-term soundness of this project is dependent on resources dedicated for stewardship. The application states that BMLT's stewardship monitoring policies and procedures have been approved through the accreditation process by the Land Trust Alliance in accordance with their standards and practices. BMLT's easement portfolio acreage will grow by 400 percent, from about 4,000 to 16,000 acres if both of its 2017 land acquisition applications are funded by OWEB. BMLT should provide sufficient information about the stewardship fund for this project, including the amount of the investment and confirmation that the projected investment returns will fund both basic compliance and long-term ecological monitoring. BMLT should ensure that the conservation easement will be added to the organization's Terra Firma insurance policy at or before closing, and demonstrate the financial resources to pay for the policy over time. If a management plan will be composed of several plans, the plans must be developed in a manner that ensures consistency among the plan components and the conservation easement.

Ecological Outcomes

The Bennett Ranch easement presents an opportunity to protect from development or future environmental decline 8,953 acres of landscape-level, intact, very high quality habitat. The property's location a few hours west of Boise provides opportunity for potential landscape fragmentation if 80- or 160-acre parcels are sold and subdivided. The exclusive farm use (EFU) zoning designation currently allows for gold mining. If sold to the right buyer and developed for mining, this would be an additional threat having detrimental impacts to the intact habitats, species and plant communities. In addition, leasing the property to develop wind and solar is also a high possibility. This conservation easement will permanently protect high-quality sage-steppe and riparian habitat from the various development threats.

Reviewers agreed that this single-owner parcel is an excellent example of sound management meeting agricultural and wildlife habitat needs. The landowner diligently improved and enhanced habitat for greater sage-grouse, various terrestrial wildlife and aquatic species over the last 10 years. Using OWEB, NRCS and other funding sources as well as substantial in-kind landowner contribution, 7,000 acres of juniper were treated, 15 diversions on Camp Creek and West Camp Creek installed, aspen groves rejuvenated and cross-fencing, springs and upland water developed to improve upland vegetative habitat. This easement will protect 350 acres of emergent wetland, 27 miles of riverine wetland and 10 acres of palustrine scrub-shrub and forested wetland. These wetlands provide late-season, brood-rearing and foraging habitat for greater sage-grouse. Although the parcel is designated by ODFW as general habitat, it is highly important to sage-grouse. According to a reviewer, leks were found in this area after ODFW had

already designated this area as general habitat. If ODFW were to review and edit this designation, the status of this property would be changed to core, elevating the importance of protecting this habitat.

Reviewers all ranked the property as excellent for current ecological function for the priority species, habitats and plant communities. The property provides high quality habitat for sage-grouse and many wildlife species. Some of the reviewers had extensive knowledge of the property as well as the landowners' efforts to diligently protect, restore and enhance this property for both agricultural and wildlife habitat values. Enrollment in the CCAA (Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances) with US Fish & Wildlife Service will further help define activities and projects that can occur on the property. The application could have been better written as it seemed rushed and poorly edited. However, the reviewers all agreed that this conservation easement is a rare opportunity to protect almost 9,000 acres of rangeland that is in excellent condition and provides essential habitat to greater sage-grouse and numerous wildlife and aquatic species.

- Needs and Opportunities: 15__ points out of 15 possible points.
- Results and Benefits: 23__ points out of 25 possible points.
- Condition and Function: _10_ points out of 10 possible points.

Community Benefits and Impacts

Oregon State University Baker County Extension currently has test plots on the property to research new chemical treatments for juniper removal. If an effective treatment is found, communities throughout central Oregon will benefit from the outcome of the research in the form of more restoration projects that restore natural sage grasslands.

Recreational hunters benefit from the property's mule deer habitat. The availability and quality of winter range is one of the most important factors determining the number of deer available to hunters. The property provides excellent winter habitat.

A successful working lands easement on the property can be a powerful example in a community and region where few exist and demand is growing.

Organizational Capacity

The Blue Mountain Land Trust (BMLT) is a new applicant to OWEB's Acquisition grant program. It is a small organization that has recently expanded into Grant County to fulfill a local need. The proposed conservation easement aligns well with the mission and geographic scope of the organization. BMLT includes staff with legal backgrounds and sufficient expertise, in coordination with the acquisition team, including Trust for Public Lands, to successfully complete the transactional aspects of the propose project.

However, the organization lacks natural resource expertise, which is critical to ensure the conservation values of the property are protected over time. This lack of expertise within the organization and the acquisition team can be addressed by contracting with natural resource experts for the development of the easement, management plan, and long-term ecological monitoring.

- 6 points awarded out of 10 possible points.

Public Review

A public hearing was held in Unity on January 24, 2018 with 9 people in attendance. Public comments were as follows:

Benefits:

- The landowners have been active in many conservation projects.
- It is the most important ranch in Baker County for sage-grouse habitat.
- Leks had disappeared in the rest of Baker County, but not on this ranch. ODFW was unaware of sage-grouse presence until helicopter surveys discovered leks, including the largest in Baker County.
- There has been a 70% decline in sage-grouse populations in Baker County in the past 10 years.
- The property includes several key habitats included in the Oregon Conservation Strategy: aspen, riparian, sub-irrigated wet meadows, and beaver.
- It is a large, contiguous property.
- Great opportunity to showcase mutually beneficial ranching and habitat protection.
- The property is adjacent to other conservation projects on nearby ranches and public lands.
- The project is important for succession planning and to ensure that conservation benefits on the ranch are secured in perpetuity.

Concerns:

- What will the effects be on future landowners?
- What will happen with the property's water rights?

Summary

Total Score: 54 points out of 60 points possible. The project is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate a working lands conservation easement that provides permanent protection of critical sage-grouse habitat as well as significant wetlands, riparian areas, and grassland of national significance. A successful project will require complex negotiations. To assure success, it is recommended that BMLT hire, in coordination with OWEB, and with OWEB grant funding, a subject-matter expert to develop ecological performance goals for the conservation easement, and incorporate objectives and actions for meeting the goals into the management plan required by OWEB. The transaction framework is unclear and needs to be clarified, preferably with BMLT acquiring the easement directly from the landowner.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend the Board award BMLT \$822,126, plus \$50,000 and associated indirect costs for easement and management plan development, for a total grant of \$879,626, in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. The recommended award is \$2,886 higher than requested due to correcting an error in the indirect cost

calculation. Staff will consult with BMLT to finalize project-specific conditions. The conditions will be provided to the Board at its April 2018 meeting.

October 19, 2017 OWEB Grant Offering

Land Acquisition Technical Assistance

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|------------------------|----------|------------------------------|
| Application No.: | 218-9910 | | | |
| Project Name: | Tillamook River Wetlands Feasibility Study | | | |
| Applicant: | Tillamook Estuaries Partnership | | | |
| OWEB Request: | \$149,985 | Proposed Match: | \$24,070 | Total Cost: \$199,990 |

Application Description: (from the application)

The proposed Tillamook River Wetlands project (TRW), is a significant opportunity to improve tidal wetland function, habitat complexity, species diversity, and water quality in the Tillamook Bay estuary. TEP in partnership with NCLC, proposes a \$199,990 project (\$149,985 request to OWEB) to establish the feasibility of acquisition and restoration of the 73-acre TRW. Located in an unincorporated portion of Tillamook County four miles from the city of Tillamook, TRW is situated at river mile three of the Tillamook River, one of five major rivers entering Tillamook Bay. The property is tidally-influenced and historically supported spruce swamp, emergent wetland, and tidal channel environments. Availability of tidal wetland is an issue of critical importance facing coastal watersheds. Levee construction, draining, and filling have altered 85% of Tillamook Bay's tidal wetlands (greater than 70% statewide), and has resulted in the decline of sensitive species and habitat types. Tillamook Bay is designated Critical Habitat for federally threatened Oregon coast coho salmon (ESU) under regulation 73 FR 7816 and NOAA's recovery plan states the primary limiting factor for recovery is access to intact rearing habitat in tidal wetland. The project area also supports 16 other federal and/or state species of concern, 13 of which are OWEB North Coast priority species. This proposal investigates site hydrology, topography, geotechnics, passage infrastructure, levee alteration, adjacent property impacts, and tidal restoration alternatives to determine the feasibility of restoration on site. Deliverables include hydrodynamic models and technical reports that will guide restoration design and implementation. Additional partners include USFWS, ODFW, TBWC, TCPW, DU, TU, and IAE.

Regional Review Team Evaluation:

Strengths:

- Restoring estuarine habitat in this watershed is a high priority. To date, there have been no estuarine restoration projects in the Tillamook River watershed and this effort to restore 73 acres of tidally influenced habitat would be the first of its kind in this portion of the Tillamook Bay watershed.
- This project could be an excellent pilot project to work through the developing SB 1517 process.
- Restoration at this location would positively impact water quality in the Tillamook River, particularly temperature and dissolved oxygen.

- Once restored, the project would contain critical habitat for Oregon coast coho salmon.
- The project complements TMDL implementation actions in this watershed.
- The project team consists of a good local partnership, including Tillamook County, and is well-poised to implement an effective and successful restoration project.
- There has been positive communication with adjacent landowners, laying the groundwork for this technical assistance work.
- The implementation of the restoration would also have potential social benefits, with the opportunity to reduce flooding on the County road and on neighboring agricultural lands.

Concerns:

- Some of the details of the proposed work were difficult to discern from the provided cost estimates. The application would have benefitted from more information and detail about each planned technical assistance activity.
- The budget for the geotechnical work seemed low given recent experience with similar projects, especially with the amount of infrastructure requiring assessments and the consideration of setback levees.

Concluding Analysis:

The review team appreciated the opportunity to work in the Tillamook River basin, especially to focus on the restoration of tidally influenced habitats along this reach of the river. Restoration of 73 acres of estuarine habitat at this project location could have far-reaching benefits to native fish and wildlife as well as water quality. They noted that all of the other major rivers in the Tillamook Bay watershed had been the subject of comprehensive estuarine wetland restoration projects and that the Tillamook River was notably lacking in having the benefit of such habitat restored. The project team is highly competent and the assembled partnership strong -- with all the right people involved with the project. Some initial outreach has been conducted to the adjacent landowners and the agricultural community, and the project is a good candidate to work through the newly developed SB 1517 process. Given the site location, the local partnership, and the potential ecological benefits, this project is ideal to develop a feasibility analysis for restoration and acquisition.

RRT Funding Recommendation:

Fund

RRT Recommended Amount:

\$149,985

Staff Funding Recommendation:

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount:

\$149,985

Project-Specific Funding Conditions
Shangrila Forest
Application No. 218-9902-15904

Grant Funds will not be disbursed under this Agreement until the following Project-specific conditions have been fulfilled to the full satisfaction of the Director:

- A. Within thirty (30) days of the award of Grant Funds, Grantee provides the following information to OWEB in writing:
 - i. An explanation of how Grantee intends to achieve specific long-term stewardship objectives for the Property, including objectives associated with managing invasive species and authorized and trespass uses of the Property. The explanation shall include the source(s) of funding, and adequacy thereof, including restricted and unrestricted funding sources for long-term stewardship activities;
 - ii. An explanation of Grantee's intended use for the \$16,000 "due diligence and legal review" and \$5,000 "survey" line items in the Project budget, including specific cost rates and deliverables that will be obtained. Grantee must receive OWEB approval before incurring any costs associated with the line items. This approval will not be granted if the Director determines that the proposed costs or deliverables are an unreasonable use of the Grant Funds; and
- B. Grantee submits a revised Project budget that includes all corrections required by OWEB.
- C. Grantee explains how the sellers of the Property vested in their respective undivided ownership interests in the Property, with the explanation supported by applicable vesting deeds.
- D. Grantee completes the purchase in accordance with a purchase and sale agreement that is based on the current OWEB purchase and sale agreement template and is consistent with information obtained in satisfying Condition C above.
- E. Grantee receives approval from OWEB on all transaction documents prior to signature including, but not limited to, the purchase and sale agreement and warranty deed.
- F. Grantee works with the sellers of the Property as necessary to ensure that requirements of Exceptions 10 and 11 in the preliminary title report dated June 26, 2017 are fulfilled prior to Closing.
- G. Along with other OWEB-required items, Grantee's management plan for the Property must include specific actions and a timeline for routinely addressing authorized and unauthorized public use of the Property and actively reducing and controlling invasive species on the Property.
- H. Grantee adds the Property to Grantee's Terra Firma insurance policy at or before Closing.

Project-Specific Funding Conditions
Tillamook River Wetlands
Application No. 218-9903-15905

Grant Funds will not be disbursed under this Agreement until the following Project-specific conditions have been fulfilled to the full satisfaction of the Director:

- A. Within thirty (30) days of the award of Grant Funds, Grantee provides the following information to OWEB in writing:
 - i. An explanation of how Grantee intends to achieve long-term stewardship objectives for the property, including objectives associated with actively managing invasive species and authorized and trespass uses of the Property. The explanation shall include the source(s) of funding, and adequacy thereof, including restricted and unrestricted funding sources for long-term stewardship activities;
 - ii. Confirmation that no tenancies exist on the Property that may trigger OWEB relocation obligations;
 - iii. Confirmation that the flood control infrastructure on the Property does not serve any adjacent land nor is the Property within a drainage district; and
 - iv. A revised Project budget that includes all corrections required by OWEB.
- B. Grantee hires, in coordination with OWEB, and with OWEB grant funding, an acquisitions subject-matter expert to assist Grantee with transaction negotiations, title work, document drafting, land use approvals, conditional use permits, survey review, road maintenance agreement matters, environmental compliance matters, and any other due diligence needs for the Project.
- C. Grantee participates in regularly scheduled Project update meetings with OWEB staff.
- D. Grantee completes the purchase in accordance with a purchase and sale agreement that is based on the current OWEB purchase and sale agreement template.
- E. Grantee receives approval from OWEB on all transaction documents prior to signature including, but not limited to, the purchase and sale agreement, mineral reservation release, partition plat, road maintenance agreement and warranty deed.
- F. Grantee, prior to closing, provides documentation of adequate progress toward meeting the Tillamook County Conditional Use process for tidal wetlands restoration, including completion of the required pre-application meeting and submittal of an application. If the project is denied through the conditional use process, the applicant shall refund the land purchase price to OWEB.
- G. Grantee removes the mineral reservation and deed of trust from the Property's title at or before closing, with those items listed as Exceptions 10 and 11 in the February 7, 2017 preliminary title report for the Property ("PTR").

- H. Grantee works with the seller of the Property as necessary to ensure that requirements of Exception 12 in the PTR are fulfilled prior to Closing.
- I. Grantee incorporates intended Grantee and Tillamook Estuaries Partnership stewardship and restoration roles and responsibilities into a binding agreement that is acceptable to OWEB.
- J. Grantee prepares baseline inventory documentation that includes, among other items required by OWEB, a description of future restored conditions on the Property (“Description of Restored Conditions”) with the conditions to include high-quality tidal wetlands to the maximum feasible extent.
- K. Along with other OWEB-required items, Grantee’s management plan for the Property will include specific actions and a timeline for: (i) restoring the Property to conditions that are consistent with the Description Restored Conditions; (ii) routinely addressing authorized and trespass uses of the Property; (iii) actively reducing and controlling invasive species on the Property; and (iv) managing impacts associated with any ongoing use of the access road on the Property.
- L. Grantee obtains a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment (“ESA”), and any additional investigative reports and action plans recommended by the Phase 1 ESA in order to confirm that shooting range uses on adjacent lands have not resulted in unacceptable contamination on the Property.
- M. Grantee adds the Property to Grantee’s Terra Firma insurance policy at or before Closing.

Project-Specific Funding Conditions
South Tongue Point
Application No. 218-9905-15908

Grant Funds will not be disbursed under this Agreement until the following Project-specific conditions have been fulfilled to the full satisfaction of the Director:

- A. Within thirty (30) days of the award of Grant Funds, Grantee provides the following information to OWEB in writing:
 - i. An explanation of how the larger parcel will be partitioned and sold as two parcels, one to Clatsop Community College (northern parcel) and the other to Grantee (southern parcel, the Property). The explanation will clearly describe the roles and responsibilities of all involved parties, and will specifically address how those roles and responsibilities will be coordinated;
 - ii. A copy of the most recent rate agreement for Grantee's Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate; and
 - iii. A revised Project budget that includes all corrections required by OWEB.
- B. Grantee enters into a binding agreement with Clatsop Community College and the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce, which clearly delineates the acquisition, restoration and stewardship roles and responsibilities of the parties.
- C. Grantee completes the purchase in accordance with a purchase and sale agreement that is based on the current OWEB purchase and sale agreement template.
- D. Grantee participates in regularly scheduled Project update meetings with OWEB staff.
- E. Grantee obtains an OWEB-approved appraisal from an appraiser selected and hired by Grantee.
- F. Grantee provides a current preliminary title report ("PTR") that pertains only to the Property and clearly identifies encumbrances affecting the Property.
- G. Grantee maps, evaluates and addresses encumbrances affecting the Property in a manner acceptable to OWEB.
- H. Grantee determines whether legal and sufficient access to the Property currently exists, and if it does not, ensures that such access will result from the property partition process associated with the Project.
- I. Grantee receives approval from OWEB on all transaction documents prior to signature including, but not limited to, the purchase and sale agreement; partition plat; agreement required by Condition B above; seller-to-Grantee warranty deed, which will not include any mineral estate reservations; and Grantee-to-College warranty deed, which will include a reversion of title provision consistent with Condition K below.

- J. Grantee enters into a notice of federal participation (“NOFP”) prepared by OWEB and approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”) for the purpose of committing Grantee to certain Project outcomes required by USFWS in exchange for its grant funds.
- K. Grantee and Clatsop Community College enter into an OWEB-approved conveyance agreement for the purpose of: (i) authorizing the transfer of the Property from Grantee to Clatsop Community College; (ii) committing the College to specific ongoing obligations under the OWEB grant agreement; (iii) committing Grantee to provide specific assistance to the College, including management planning assistance; and (iv) providing for a reversion of title provision to be included in the Grantee-to-College deed, with title to revert to Grantee in the event that OWEB determines that the College is not adequately protecting the conservation values associated with the Property.
- L. Grantee confirms the location of the eastern boundary of the Property and its relationship to the historic and existing deposition authorizations for dredge materials in the area.
- M. Grantee obtains a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment (“ESA”) that includes specific consideration of possible fill-based contamination on or adjacent to the Property.
- N. Grantee completes a plan for establishing an adequate stewardship endowment for the Property, with the plan to include: (i) the amount of stewardship funding that will be secured; (ii) an analysis of how that amount of funding, along with other Grantee and partner resources, will be sufficient to meet the stewardship needs of the Property; (iii) roles and responsibilities for raising and managing stewardship funds; and (iv) a timeline for specific actions under the plan.

Project-Specific Funding Conditions
Canyon Ranch
Application No. 218-9906-15909

Grant Funds will not be disbursed under this Agreement until the following Project-specific conditions have been fulfilled to the full satisfaction of the Director:

- A. Within thirty (30) days of the award of Grant Funds, Grantee provides the following information to OWEB in writing:
 - i. Confirmation of the amount of stewardship endowment funding that is intended at Closing and an analysis of how that amount of funding, along with other Grantee and Project partner resources, will be sufficient to address stewardship coordination and easement monitoring and enforcement needs over time; and
 - ii. A revised Project budget that includes all corrections required by OWEB.
- B. Grantee completes the purchase in accordance with a purchase and sale agreement that is based on the current OWEB purchase and sale agreement template.
- C. Grantee participates in regularly scheduled Project update meetings with OWEB staff.
- D. Grantee hires, in coordination with OWEB, and with OWEB grant funding, one or two subject-matter expert(s) to assist Grantee with: (i) communication among Project partners; (ii) transaction negotiations; (iii) conservation easement and other document drafting; (iv) title work and other due diligence for the Project; and (v) development of ecological performance goals and completion of the baseline inventory and management plan for the Project.
- E. Grantee receives approval from OWEB on all transaction documents prior to signature including, but not limited to, the purchase and sale agreement and conservation easement.
- F. Grantee provides a current preliminary title report ("PTR") that includes only the encumbrances that affect the Property, with those encumbrances mapped, evaluated and addressed by Grantee.
- G. Grantee, in consultation with OWEB, revises the draft conservation easement to: (i) incorporate all OWEB-required language, and ensure that the language is fully integrated with language required by other funders; (ii) address matters raised in the project evaluation; (iii) account for feedback from OWEB reviewers; and (iv) address any other matters that arise during the conservation easement revision process. OWEB-required conservation easement revisions include but are not limited to: (i) describing the ecological performance goals that the conservation easement and management plan are intended to achieve on the Property generally and in each Conservation Value zone specifically; and (ii) requiring that in the event of a conflict between agricultural uses and Conservation Values protection including

achievement of ecological performance goals, Conservation Values protection will take precedence.

- H. Grantee addresses inconsistencies, if any, between CREP program requirements and protections that apply to the Property, and the conservation easement's terms and conditions.
- I. Grantee works with the sellers of the conservation easement to convert the verbal grazing lease on the Property into a written lease that clearly states that all grazing under the lease must be consistent with the purpose, terms, and conditions of the conservation easement.
- J. Grantee completes an analysis of the Property's water rights and their status and recommends actions, if any, that may be necessary to ensure that water conserved on the Property will benefit fish and wildlife. If specific water rights actions are recommended, such as an allocation of conserved water, the actions will be taken in the first five-year period of management plan implementation.
- K. Grantee revises the draft management plan to: (i) be consistent with OWEB's guidelines for management plans; (ii) address matters raised in the project evaluation; (iii) account for feedback from OWEB reviewers; and (iv) address any other matters that arise during the management plan review and revision process. OWEB-required management plan revisions include but are not limited to any changes necessary to clearly: (i) describe ecological performance goals for the Conservation Value Zones specifically and the Property generally; (ii) incorporate actions specifically designed to achieve the ecological performance goals; (iv) include ecological monitoring prescriptions that relate specifically to tracking achievement of the ecological performance goals; and (v) include specific actions and timelines for analyzing and interpreting ecological monitoring data and revising Property management actions as necessary to achieve the ecological performance goals.
- L. Grantee justifies the budgeted appraisal cost prior to initiating the appraisal work.
- M. Grantee executes a memorandum of understanding among the Project partners to establish roles and assistance for implementing the management plan after closing.
- N. Grantee documents how remote portions of the Property that are not served by existing roads will be accessed for stewardship, monitoring and enforcement activities under the conservation easement.
- O. Grantee adds the conservation easement to Grantee's Terra Firma insurance policy before or at Closing.

Project-Specific Funding Conditions
Caledonia Woodlands
Application No. 218-9908-15911

Grant Funds will not be disbursed under this Agreement until the following Project-specific conditions have been fulfilled to the full satisfaction of the Director:

- A. Within thirty (30) days of the award of Grant Funds, Grantee provides the following information to OWEB in writing:
 - i. Confirmation of the amount of stewardship endowment funding that is intended at Closing and an analysis of how that amount of funding, along with other Grantee resources, will be sufficient to address stewardship coordination and easement monitoring and enforcement needs over time; and
 - ii. A revised Project budget that includes all corrections required by OWEB.
- B. Grantee hires, in coordination with OWEB, and with OWEB grant funding, an acquisitions subject-matter expert to assist Grantee with transaction negotiations, analysis and resolution of title matters, document drafting, and other technical assistance as needed and approved by OWEB.
- C. Grantee completes an ownership diagram that clearly depicts how ownership interests in the Property evolved to their current status.
- D. Grantee completes the purchase in accordance with a purchase and sale agreement that is based on the current OWEB purchase and sale agreement template.
- E. Grantee participates in regularly scheduled Project update meetings with OWEB staff.
- F. Grantee takes all appropriate actions, such as, but not limited to, a plat vacation, in a good-faith effort to merge Parcels 1, 2 and 3 of Partition Plat 14-14 into one legally conveyable parcel prior to Closing.
- G. Grantee works with the sellers of the conservation easement as necessary to extinguish all Measure 49 Home Site Authorizations applicable to the Property prior to Closing.
- H. Grantee receives approval from OWEB on all transaction documents prior to signature including, but not limited to, the purchase and sale agreement, plat vacation and conservation easement.
- I. Grantee provides a current preliminary title report ("PTR") for the Property to OWEB, with the PTR to include only those encumbrances that affect the Property.
- J. Grantee maps, evaluates and addresses encumbrances affecting the Property.
- K. Grantee, in consultation with OWEB, makes necessary revisions to the draft conservation easement.

- L. Grantee: (i) purchases a conservation easement defense insurance policy prior to Closing, or provides documentation that such policy will be effective at the earliest possible date subsequent to Closing, in an amount recommended by the Land Trust Alliance and approved by OWEB; and (ii) demonstrates the commitment and financial wherewithal to maintain the insurance policy over time.
- M. Grantee will include, among other items required by OWEB, the following items in the management plan: (i) a plant survey to determine threats and opportunities facing the Property's vegetation and inform management priorities; (ii) a comprehensive assessment of management strategies for the Property including the use of prescribed fire to improve conditions in priority ecosystems; and (iii) clear roles, responsibilities, and actions for managing and enhancing the Property's Conservation Values, including managing recreational and other use-related impacts to the Property.

Project-Specific Funding Conditions
Bennett Ranch
Application No. 218-9909-15912

Grant Funds will not be disbursed under this Agreement until the following Project-specific conditions have been fulfilled to the full satisfaction of the Director:

- A. Within thirty (30) days of the award of Grant Funds, Grantee provides the following information to OWEB in writing:
 - i. Confirmation of the amount of stewardship endowment funding that is intended at Closing and an analysis of how that amount of funding, along with other Grantee and Project partner resources, will be sufficient to address stewardship coordination and easement monitoring and enforcement needs over time;
 - ii. A revised project budget that includes all corrections required by OWEB;
 - iii. A statement of the conservation easement seller's willingness to: (1) work with Grantee and Project partners to revise the draft conservation easement to meet all funders' requirements; and (2) work with Grantee to develop and implement an OWEB-approved management plan, including securing funding for any restoration activities necessary to enhance and maintain the Property's Conservation Values after Closing; and
 - iv. An explanation of Grantee's role in Project negotiations and due diligence.
- B. Grantee provides the option agreement referenced in the application materials to OWEB for review, and amends or revises the agreement as necessary to comply with OWEB requirements, including transaction structure requirements. At a minimum, OWEB will require that the option agreement: (i) provides for sale of the conservation easement directly to Grantee; (ii) provides for reasonable extensions that may be needed for Grantee to meet OWEB's funding conditions; and (iii) includes appropriate representations and warranties that the Property is not subject to any leases, licenses or unrecorded agreements not disclosed to Grantee.
- C. Grantee hires, in coordination with OWEB, and with OWEB grant funding, a subject-matter expert to develop ecological performance goals for the conservation easement, and incorporate objectives and actions for meeting the goals into the management plan required by OWEB.
- D. Grantee participates in regularly scheduled Project update meetings with OWEB staff.
- E. Grantee receives approval from OWEB on all transaction documents prior to signature including, but not limited to, the revised option agreement and conservation easement.
- F. Grantee provides a current preliminary title report ("PTR") that identifies the encumbrances affecting the Property, with those encumbrances mapped, evaluated and addressed by Grantee.

- G. Grantee, in consultation with OWEB, revises the draft conservation easement to to: (i) incorporate OWEB-required language; (ii) address matters raised in the project evaluation; (iii) account for feedback from OWEB reviewers; and (iv) address any other matters that arise during the conservation easement revision process. OWEB-required conservation easement revisions include but are not limited to: (i) describing the ecological performance goals that the conservation easement and management plan are intended to achieve on the Property generally and in each Conservation Value zone specifically; and (ii) requiring that in the event of a conflict between agricultural uses and Conservation Values protection including achievement of ecological performance goals, Conservation Values protection will take precedence.
- H. Grantee completes an analysis of the Property's water rights and their status and recommends actions, if any, that may be necessary to ensure that any water conserved on the Property will benefit fish and wildlife. If specific water rights actions are recommended, such as an Allocation of Conserved Water, the actions will be taken in the first five-year period of management plan implementation.
- I. Grantee extinguishes or acquires all split-estate mineral rights pertaining to the Property, at or before closing. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if Grantee determines, and OWEB agrees, that extinguishing or acquiring the mineral rights is not feasible due to specific circumstances associated with those rights, Grantee provides a written minerals risk assessment, completed by an Oregon-licensed geologist, to OWEB that, in accordance with OWEB's established mineral rights guidelines, confirms a negligible probability of any activities related to the mineral rights materially affecting the conservation values of the Property.
- J. Grantee executes a memorandum of understanding among the Project partners to establish roles and assistance for implementing the management plan after Closing.
- K. Grantee documents how remote portions of the Property that are not served by existing roads will be accessed for stewardship, monitoring and enforcement activities under the conservation easement.
- L. Grantee adds the conservation easement to Grantee's Terra Firma insurance policy before or at Closing.
- M. Grantee will prepare a management plan that is: (i) consistent with OWEB's guidelines for management plans; (ii) addresses matters raised in the project evaluation; (iii) accounts for feedback from OWEB reviewers; and (iv) addresses any other matters that arise during the management plan review and revision process. OWEB-required management plan elements include but are not limited to: (i) ecological performance goals for the Conservation Value Zones specifically and the Property generally; (ii) actions specifically designed to achieve the ecological performance goals; (iv) ecological monitoring prescriptions that relate specifically to tracking achievement of the ecological performance goals; and (v) specific actions and timelines for analyzing and interpreting ecological monitoring data and revising Property management actions as necessary to achieve the ecological performance goals.



Oregon

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MEMORANDUM



TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator
Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item I-OWEB Water Lease and Transfer Grant Program –
Overview and 2017 Grant Offering Awards
April 23-25, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the December 2017 Water Acquisition Grant Offering process and outlines staff recommendations for grant awards.

II. Water Acquisitions – December 2017 Offering Background and Summary

A. Applications Submitted

Seven grant applications were received in the December 2017 Water Acquisition Grant Offering, requesting a total of \$808,052. The applications, summarized in Table 1, propose a variety of water management approaches including minimum flow agreements, forbearance agreements, split-season and short term leases, and permanent water right transfers. OWEB's Water Acquisition Grant program allows for this variety of approaches in order to achieve the desired ecological benefits of the program, while allowing agricultural producers and ranchers the flexibility to continue their operations.

B. Review Process

The water acquisition applications followed the coordinated funder framework for soliciting, reviewing, and making funding recommendations that was established through OWEB's Water Acquisition Grant Revised Administrative Rules in June 2013.

Applications are evaluated for project soundness, ecological outcomes, and organizational capacity using National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) evaluation criteria developed in coordination with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (NPCC) Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP). The ISRP criteria identifies the key considerations in evaluating prospective flow restoration transactions, including the timing and location of the project, the current and desired hydrologic condition of the stream system, the attributes of the subject water rights and their suitability to addressing limiting factors for fish and water quality, the economic rationale for the proposed transaction cost, as well as the ability for the transaction to be monitored over time to ensure that proposed benefits are realized.

The proposals were evaluated by NFWF staff, reviewed by water rights experts in the legal and economic fields, and ranked by a third-party Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprised of fisheries and habitat experts from NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in addition to water transaction specialists from NPCC and Bonneville Power Administration. The TAC ultimately assesses each transaction and provides a score based on the ISRP criteria.

Staff prepared an evaluation of each project that summarizes the NFWF review outcomes and recommendations. After evaluations were completed, they were provided to the applicants.

C. Overview of Funding Recommendations

Staff recommend seven applications for funding. The total amount of recommended OWEB funding is \$808,052.

III. Staff Funding Recommendations

Staff recommend the board award funding for water acquisition grants as specified in Table 1.

| Application # | Region | Project Name | Total OWEB Request | Total Amount Recommended |
|---|---------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 217-9905 | 2 | Ashland Creek Streamflow Restoration Pilot Project | \$ 18,769 | \$ 18,769 |
| 217-9906 | 4 | Fifteenmile Lease Bank 2018 | \$ 23,441 | \$ 23,441 |
| 217-9907 | 5 | Lostine Minimum Flow Agreement 2018-2019 | \$ 394,095 | \$ 394,095 |
| 217-9908 | 5 | Lostine WW 2018 | \$ 219,876 | \$ 219,876 |
| 217-9909 | 6 | Reynolds Creek | \$ 57,239 | \$ 57,239 |
| 217-9910 | 6 | Rock Creek | \$ 60,915 | \$ 60,915 |
| 217-9911 | 4 | North Fork Sprague Conservation Piping and Instream Flow Restoration | \$ 33,717 | \$ 33,717 |
| Total Water Acquisition Applications Submitted | | | \$808,052 | |
| Total OWEB Funding Recommended | | | | \$808,052 |

Attachments

- A. Water Acquisition Project Evaluations

2017 OWEB Grant Offering

Water Lease and Transfer Application

Project Name: Ashland Creek Instream Lease

Applicant: Trout Unlimited

Application No: 217-9905

Basin: Rogue

OWEB Request: \$18,769

Region: South Coast

County: Jackson

Total Cost: \$24,711

Application Description

Trout Unlimited (TU) proposes a 3-year lease of 0.5 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water from a private water user on Ashland Creek with an 1864 priority date. The proposed transaction will benefit approximately 1 mile of habitat in Ashland Creek. Ashland Creek provides habitat for Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) Coho Salmon (federally listed as threatened), Klamath Mountain Province (KMP) Steelhead Trout and resident Rainbow and Cutthroat Trout. Water management in the Bear Creek watershed is widely acknowledged to be a limiting factor to fish production - largely due to over-allocation of instream flows for irrigation - at all times of year. Protecting 0.5 cfs of live flow in Ashland Creek will provide a measurable increase in flow over current conditions and will be invaluable to Coho and Steelhead summer parr. Funding is sought for 3 seasons of leasing beginning in 2018. TU acknowledges that funding may not be received in time to meet this goal, and they have made the lessors aware of this. In the event funding is not received in time for a 2018 lease, the project will be implemented beginning in 2019 and extend through 2020 and 2021.

REVIEW

Project Soundness

Reviewers felt that the water transaction was viable and was likely to achieve the proposed flow restoration outcomes. Based on information provided by TU, it appears that sufficient due diligence measures have been conducted to establish the short-term transferability of the subject water rights to an instream use, establish accurate ownership information of the subject water rights, and document the value of the water rights to be leased based on a Rogue Basin water valuation commissioned by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Reviewers noted that the Bureau valuation was generic to the entire Rogue Basin, not specifically Ashland Creek. Nonetheless, the projected annual lease price of \$22/acre-foot is very reasonable relative to lease prices in the Rogue Basin and throughout the Pacific Northwest. Reviewers felt that this reflected a reasonable value based on available data. Adequate monitoring, stewardship, and enforcement of water transactions are necessary to ensure that acquired water rights continue to provide the anticipated benefits to flows, habitat, and fish. Reviewers felt that TU's plans for monitoring compliance with the lease terms was sufficient, with regular site visits to assure no water use occurs on the acreage from which water has been leased, and additional review of satellite imagery as appropriate and available. Protection of the leased water instream was documented as watermaster enforcement of the reduced diversion rate at the point of diversion. Reviewers would benefit from more information on how the watermaster will ensure protection of the water right from diversion by more junior water right holders to ensure leased flows are protected instream.

A signed Letter of Intent was provided by TU for review, but a final Landowner Agreement was not provided.

Ecological Outcomes

Reviewers gave this transaction a positive review for its proposed benefits to fish, water quality, habitat availability, and connectivity. Furthermore, TU and its partners have undertaken a prioritization effort to help determine where flow restoration activities would be most beneficial in the Rogue River basin. Based on the information provided by TU, Ashland Creek appears to be a high restoration priority identified in their analysis.

The proposal and associated materials documented the value of additional flow in Ashland Creek. The primary ecological significance of the instream lease is the benefit to Coho and Steelhead outmigrating smolts and summer parr. In addition, adding water to Ashland Creek will help maintain its cold and clear nature throughout the affected reach and will help maintain temperatures suitable for salmonid migration and rearing. The proposal would have benefited from further description of how the proposed transaction complements other watershed-scale initiatives to address limiting factors. It also could have been clearer what the flow target goals are for the Creek, but one of the benefits of short term leasing is to develop a greater understanding of flows to help set such goals.

Organizational Capacity

TU provided a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) in December 2016 that demonstrated the necessary organizational capacity to complete water transactions. TU and key staff have a long history of successfully navigating the State's instream transfer process. TU cites a number of relevant examples in their SOQ and the proposal identifies two other water transactions in this watershed and another nearby that have been successfully completed. Furthermore, TU has demonstrated the ability to provide monitoring and stewardship of past water acquisitions, and to work with OWRD to resolve issues as they arise.

Summary

The project will provide short-term benefit on Ashland Creek, an important tributary to Bear Creek in the Rogue Basin. In addition, and of great importance, is that this lease will demonstrate the benefits of water transactions to other landowners in the Bear Creek watershed. The cost of the transaction appears reasonable based on water leasing data from similar watersheds, and is based on valuation work commissioned by the Bureau of Reclamation. TU and its staff have demonstrated the ability to negotiate, implement, and monitor complex water acquisition projects based on their previous experience and should be in a position to implement this lease as proposed. The proposal did lack details of watershed context and the relationship of the lease to other restoration actions in Ashland Creek and the larger Bear Creek watershed.

Review Team Recommendation

Fund, with the request to provide more watershed context and information on how the watermaster will protect the leased water instream per the priority date of the underlying water right.

Staff Recommendation

Fund with condition:

- Prior to first payment, provide information on how the watermaster will protect the leased water instream per the priority date of the underlying water right.

2017 OWEB Grant Offering

Water Lease and Transfer Application

Project Name: Hood Basin Fifteenmile Leasing 2018

Applicant: The Freshwater Trust

Application No: 217-9906

Basin: Fifteenmile

OWEB Request: \$23,441

Region: Central Oregon

County: Wasco

Total Cost: \$31,254

Application Description

The Freshwater Trust (TFT) proposes to lease multiple water rights with multiple irrigators in the Fifteenmile subbasin. They propose to provide compensation for full and split-season leases of one to five years in duration. This provides Fifteenmile landowners with a flexible instream leasing option that they can work into their crop rotation patterns, while also supporting TFT's flow restoration goal of 5-7 cubic feet per second (cfs) at the mouth of Fifteenmile Creek to benefit a mostly wild population of ESA-listed, threatened Mid Columbia summer steelhead. Other aquatic focal species include Coho and Chinook salmon, Pacific and western brook lamprey, resident redband, and cutthroat trout, among others. The transactions included in the 2018 Leasing Program will fund 1.54 cfs of water rights with priority dates ranging from 1858-1907 in instream leases. This amount is in addition to the two continuing paid leases in Fifteenmile, and the additional uncompensated leases for later priority dates and less reliable water that will begin in 2018. TFT's Leasing Program is part of a multi-faceted approach to addressing the low flows on Fifteenmile Creek. It complements the watershed's Fifteenmile Action to Stabilize Temperatures (FAST), a contingency plan aimed at reducing lethal stream temperatures after a 2009 fish kill. It also complements considerable other work by local restoration groups (SWCD, Watershed Council), tribes, and state and federal agencies.

REVIEW

Project Soundness

Reviewers felt that this water transaction was likely to achieve the proposed flow restoration outcomes. Based on information provided by TFT and the reviewers' familiarity with TFT's prior work in this watershed, reviewers are confident that leases can be implemented as proposed.

Adequate monitoring, stewardship, and enforcement of water transactions are necessary to ensure that acquired water rights continue to provide the anticipated benefits to flows, habitat, and fish. Reviewers felt that TFT's plan for monitoring compliance with the lease terms was sufficient. TFT works closely with the watermaster in this watershed and will work with the watermaster and locally based Wasco SWCD to monitor leases. TFT will also visit all sites at least once during the season.

Draft lease applications were provided by TFT, but not signed agreements. NFWF will confirm leasing commitments for 2018. TFT expects to have signed agreements by the end of March.

Ecological Outcomes

Reviewers gave this transaction a positive review for its proposed benefits to fish, water quality, habitat availability, and connectivity. According to the materials provided, the Fifteenmile watershed provides habitat for a nearly intact wild genetic stock of Middle Columbia summer steelhead, listed as threatened under the ESA. Summer steelhead are a primary management concern for State, Federal, and Tribal natural resource agencies. Other aquatic focal species include coho and Chinook salmon, Pacific and western brook lamprey, resident redband and cutthroat trout. The watershed has undergone extensive alteration and damage from its natural state since settlement, and is a high-priority area under both state and federal management agency restoration criteria. Other efforts are ongoing to restore aquatic habitat in the Fifteenmile watershed. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife along with the Warm Springs Tribe, NRCS, the Fifteenmile Watershed Council, and the Wasco Soil and Water Conservation District, have all implemented and continue to develop habitat improvement projects in the basin. The proposal would have benefited from clarifying which of these efforts have already been completed, are in progress, or are planned for the future.

TFT indicates that 37% to 52% of their current flow target (5-7 cfs of senior water rights) at the mouth of Fifteenmile Creek is reached through these leases and prior transactions. The proposal would have benefited from further discussion about the strategies planned to reach the flow target over time, especially as they note there may be reason to have a significantly higher flow target to meet biological need.

Organizational Capacity

TFT, and its predecessor the Oregon Water Trust, have participated in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program (CBWTP) since the program's inception in 2002. As a participant in the CBWTP, TFT has undergone a qualification process to demonstrate the organization's capacity to successfully identify, implement, and monitor water transactions. To date, TFT has implemented over 160 water transactions in partnership with the CBWTP. Based on their general experience implementing water transactions under the CBWTP and their specific experience in the Fifteenmile watershed, reviewers felt that TFT had sufficient capacity and expertise to implement this transaction.

Summary

This project is a part of a strategic effort to support flows and fish in Fifteenmile Creek. TFT and its partners have a long history of working in this basin, and farmers in several of these transactions are doing dryland farming while keeping water instream through this project. The value of leases is supported by economic valuation uploaded as part of this proposal.

Review Team Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommendation

Fund

2017 OWEB Grant Offering

Water Lease and Transfer Application

Project Name: Wallowa Lostine_MFA_2018-2019

Applicant: The Freshwater Trust

Application No: 217-9907

Basin: Grande Ronde

OWEB Request: \$394,095

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

Total Cost: \$525,060

Application Description

The Freshwater Trust (TFT) proposes to renew a longstanding minimum flow agreement (MFA) on the Lostine River for two years. The 2018-2019 transaction proposes to maintain a minimum flow of 15 cubic feet per second (cfs) instream in the upper Lostine from August 10th to September 30th each year to benefit Chinook passage and spawning. In addition to the base payment, irrigators will again be eligible to earn payments into their shared efficiency project fund for averaged daily flows instream between 15 and 25 cfs over two 26-day periods. This payment structure will maintain a minimum flow and incentivize additional instream flow while supporting irrigators' efforts to implement permanent efficiency projects that will ultimately eliminate the need for a yearly agreement. The extension of the time period of the transaction (without any increase in payments) is a critical component of the new agreement as it will ensure consistent flows beginning right as the low flow period starts. This will be particularly important in bad water years when we are consistently seeing low flows earlier in the season. The previous start date of August 22nd coincided with the highest numbers of Chinook moving through the system, but TFT notes that the Nez Perce Tribe telemetry study shows that Chinook are present and moving through the reach from mid-July to early October. Moving the start date back to August 10th helps ensure consistent flow for fish in the system over the entire low flow period. For this project, the period has been extended while holding payments the same, so the cost per volume of water is reduced from 2015-2017.

REVIEW

Project Soundness

Reviewers felt that the water transaction was viable and was likely to achieve the proposed flow restoration outcomes. The project enables ESA-listed Chinook to access higher quality spawning grounds through an area of the River that went nearly dry in the years prior to the minimum flow agreement. TFT has been refining this transaction over time, and there is an investment in a permanent solution included in this proposal with a portion of the bonus payments to be used to invest in a long-term irrigation efficiency fund. Irrigators have signed on with Farmer's Conservation Alliance to use bonus funds for automated headgates and measuring devices on the four main ditches. TFT indicated improvements have been made to diversion structures with one still in need of upgrades, but did not note if there was a planned fix for that structure or other habitat improvements that have been made or should be made in this reach.

Reviewers felt that the proposal reflected a reasonable value based on available data from the 2015 update to the Wallowa Basin Economic Profile by Westwater Research. Adequate monitoring, stewardship, and enforcement of water transactions are necessary to ensure that acquired water rights

continue to provide the anticipated benefits to flows, habitat, and fish. Reviewers felt that TFT's plans for monitoring compliance with the agreement terms was sufficient, with regular monitoring by Oregon Water Resources Department, communication with TFT and landowners, and other monitoring sites that the Nez Perce Tribe manages. TFT also noted that metering on ditches is in development through prior investments into the efficiency fund through this project.

A draft landowner agreement was provided and TFT will obtain signatures once funding is approved.

Ecological Outcomes

Reviewers gave this transaction a positive review for its proposed benefits to fish, water quality, habitat availability, and connectivity. This project is a high restoration priority for TFT, the Nez Perce Tribe, and others in the watershed. Fish returns have increased, though the Nez Perce Tribe have also initiated a supplementation program enabled by additional flows.

The proposal and associated materials documented the value of additional flow in the Lostine River. The primary ecological significance of the transaction is noted as passage to access spawning grounds for Chinook salmon, though steelhead trout and bull trout are also noted as benefitting from this transaction. Reviewers felt that the proposal could have benefited from describing what has been learned from the 13 years of this transaction from a biological and instream habitat perspective.

Organizational Capacity

TFT, and its predecessor the Oregon Water Trust, have participated in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program (CBWTP) since the program's inception in 2002. As a participant in the CBWTP, TFT has undergone a qualification process to demonstrate the organization's capacity to successfully identify, implement, and monitor water transactions. To date, TFT has implemented over 160 water transactions in partnership with the CBWTP. Based on their general experience implementing water transactions under the CBWTP and their specific experience in this watershed, reviewers felt that TFT had sufficient capacity and expertise to implement this transaction.

Summary

The reviewers commend TFT and partners for strategic efforts to develop a permanent flow restoration project in the Lostine River, and for adapting the transaction to fit fish needs. The project will provide short-term benefit to Chinook passage in the Lostine, while also making continued investments in a long-term solution. The cost of the transaction appears reasonable based on water leasing data from similar watersheds and is based on valuation work by Westwater Research. TFT and its staff have demonstrated the ability to negotiate, implement, and monitor complex water acquisition projects based on their previous experience and should be in a position to implement this project as proposed. The proposal could have been improved by clarifying if other habitat restoration actions have been completed/are needed beyond flow and upgrading diversion structures. The proposal also could have described fish response to the 13 previous years of this transaction.

Review Team Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommendation

Fund with condition:

- Include description of fish response to transaction in the project completion report.

2017 OWEB Grant Offering

Water Lease and Transfer Application

Project Name: Wallowa Lostine WW2018-2019

Applicant: The Freshwater Trust

Application No: 217-9908

Basin: Grande Ronde

OWEB Request: \$219,876

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

Total Cost: \$293,168

Application Description

The Freshwater Trust (TFT) is proposing the first two years of a split-season lease of 1072.4 acre-feet annually, or approximately 8.88 cubic feet per second, in the Lostine and Wallowa River during August and September for the benefit of ESA listed Lower Snake River Chinook salmon, steelhead, bull trout, and Pacific Lamprey. Flows will be protected from river mile 5.2 to the mouth of the Lostine and continue down the length of the Wallowa River to the confluence with the Grande Ronde River. This project is associated with and complementary to a larger conserved water project with this landowner and addresses the time of year when instream flows are critical. This project builds on the Lostine River Minimum Flow Agreement (MFA) that TFT is also requesting funding for at this time.

REVIEW

Project Soundness

Reviewers felt that the water transaction was viable and was likely to achieve the proposed flow restoration outcomes. TFT has conducted sufficient due diligence to establish the short-term transferability of the subject water rights to an instream use, establish accurate ownership information of the subject water rights, and document the value of the water rights to be leased. Reviewers felt that the price per acre-foot of \$135 was acceptable and is within the range of values provided by Westwater in a valuation done for this and the broader conserved water project.

Adequate monitoring, stewardship, and enforcement of water transactions are necessary to ensure that acquired water rights continue to provide the anticipated benefits to flows, habitat, and fish. Reviewers felt that TFT's plan for monitoring compliance with the lease terms was sufficient. TFT and the Oregon Water Resources Department will work with irrigators on each canal to install measuring devices at locations necessary to ensure that the requirements of the split-season lease are met. TFT staff will regularly photograph acres contracted under the lease agreement to ensure that irrigation water is not being applied during the late season. Partners are also monitoring in this reach as part of a Chinook study. The proposal neglected to discuss lessons learned by this study thus far.

A draft landowner agreement was submitted with the proposal, and a signed agreement is expected in March 2018.

Ecological Outcomes

Reviewers gave this transaction a positive review for its proposed benefits to fish, water quality, habitat availability, and connectivity. This transaction builds on the Lostine River MFA transaction upstream and in this reach. 22% to 59% of the flow target will be reached during the critical low flow period through

this transaction. This project also complements other habitat work in the watershed, though it was unclear the proximity of other restoration to this project.

The proposal and associated materials documented the value of additional flow in the Lostine River. The primary ecological significance of the instream lease is to benefit passage to access spawning grounds for Chinook salmon. Stranding was observed by biologists in 2012 and 2015 during the low flow period in this reach. Steelhead trout, and bull trout are also noted as benefitting from this transaction.

Organizational Capacity

TFT, and its predecessor the Oregon Water Trust, have participated in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program (CBWTP) since the program's inception in 2002. As a participant in the CBWTP, TFT has undergone a qualification process to demonstrate the organization's capacity to successfully identify, implement, and monitor water transactions. To date, TFT has implemented over 160 water transactions in partnership with the CBWTP. Based on their general experience implementing water transactions under the CBWTP and their specific experience in this watershed, reviewers felt that TFT had sufficient capacity and expertise to implement this transaction.

Summary

This project will provide a two year benefit on the Lostine River for Chinook passage and for other species; however, the agreement with the landowner extends an additional three years, pending funding approval. This transaction, combined with others, demonstrates progress in flow restoration on the Lostine River. The cost of the transaction appears reasonable based the valuation by Westwater. TFT and its staff have demonstrated the ability to negotiate, implement, and monitor complex water acquisition projects based on their previous experience and are in a position to implement this lease as proposed.

Review Team Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommendation

Fund

2017 OWEB Grant Offering

Water Lease and Transfer Application

Project Name: Upper John Day Reynolds Creek 2018

Applicant: The Freshwater Trust

Application No: 217-9909

Basin: John Day

OWEB Request: \$57,239

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

Total Cost: \$76,318

Application Description

The Freshwater Trust (TFT) proposes a one year split-season lease combined with a forbearance agreement for 2.48 cubic feet per second (cfs) of cold, late-season flow, which will provide rearing habitat for juvenile spring Chinook salmon and westslope cutthroat trout. The project will also provide some cooling benefit into a priority reach of critical Chinook spawning habitat in the main stem Upper John Day River. There are discussions around a 10-year transaction with these landowners; however, local conservation partners are currently discussing a conservation easement. This transaction provides room for those conversations to be completed. This is a renewal transaction that was previously in place for one and then three years. There is a companion transaction on Reynolds Creek that, when combined with this proposal, achieves the Reynolds Creek instream flow target of 3 cfs.

REVIEW

Project Soundness

Reviewers felt that the water transaction was viable and was likely to achieve the proposed flow restoration outcomes. TFT notes that this is their highest priority in the John Day. TFT has successfully leased the lease portion of the water rights instream and there is no intervening landowner below these water rights in Reynolds Creek. The forbearance approach works in this reach because the transacted water is not going downstream to other junior water users. Because of this, all of the water from the project water rights is expected to reach the critical spawning grounds in the John Day mainstem. The cost proposed is slightly above the top end of the valuation for the basin, but as this is cold water and thus higher ecological value, the price was accepted in the prior project implemented for this transaction. TFT notes that hay prices have increased since the basin valuation was updated in 2014.

Adequate monitoring, stewardship, and enforcement of water transactions are necessary to ensure that acquired water rights continue to provide the anticipated benefits to flows, habitat, and fish. Reviewers felt that TFT's plans for monitoring compliance with the lease terms was sufficient, with regular site visits to assure no water use occurs on the acreage from which water has been leased, and regular monitoring to confirm compliance with forbearance terms.

In addition, TFT will work closely with the watermaster as needed. Reviewers would have benefitted from a description of lessons learned in prior years through monitoring of the previous transactions with these water rights.

A draft landowner agreement was provided by TFT for review, but a final landowner agreement was not provided. A signed landowner agreement is expected at the end of March.

Ecological Outcomes

Reviewers gave this transaction a positive review for its proposed benefits to fish, water quality, and connectivity. TFT considers this an important project in the watershed during the term of the transaction. It meets the flow target in Reynolds Creek, and has a positive influence by adding cold water to the mainstem John Day River. Temperature is the limiting factor in the Upper John Day River. The proposal indicates that the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs have said that it helps with Chinook passage in this reach of the John Day River, as well as having cooling effects.

The proposal and associated materials documented the value of additional flow in Reynolds Creek and the Upper John Day River mainstem. The primary ecological significance of the instream lease and forbearance is to provide rearing habitat for juvenile spring Chinook salmon and westslope cutthroat trout in the late season. The Upper John Day River is also a critical stream for ESA-listed bull trout and will provide spawning and over-summering habitat for Chinook.

The proposal would have benefited from a description of how the proposed transaction complements other watershed-scale and reach-specific initiatives to address other limiting factors. It also would have benefited from additional information on the results from flow and habitat monitoring in this reach over the previous four years.

Organizational Capacity

TFT, and its predecessor the Oregon Water Trust, have participated in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program (CBWTP) since the program's inception in 2002. As a participant in the CBWTP, TFT has undergone a qualification process to demonstrate the organization's capacity to successfully identify, implement, and monitor water transactions. To date, TFT has implemented over 160 water transactions in partnership with the CBWTP. Based on their general experience implementing water transactions under the CBWTP and their specific experience in this watershed, reviewers felt that TFT had sufficient capacity and expertise to implement this transaction.

Summary

The location, time of year, and quantity of water for this flow transaction present an important project in the watershed that meets the flow target and adds cool water to the main stem John Day River. TFT could have provided more specificity on links to additional habitat restoration in the watershed, their plan for implementing flow and habitat monitoring in this reach, and lessons learned from the last four years of this transaction. The cost for this transaction is high, albeit the ecological benefits of cool water in this location are also high.

Review Team Recommendation

Fund, with a request to provide additional watershed context and information on lessons learned through the previous iterations of this transaction.

Staff Recommendation

Fund with condition:

- Provide additional information in the project completion report on lessons learned through this project and the previous iterations of this transaction.

2017 OWEB Grant Offering

Water Lease and Transfer Application

Project Name: Upper John Day Rock Creek 2018

Applicant: The Freshwater Trust

Application No: 217-9910

Basin: John Day

OWEB Request: \$60,915

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

Total Cost: \$81,220

Application Description

This is a proposal by The Freshwater Trust (TFT) to seek the second year of funding for a 2-year agreement with a 40,000 acre ranch to pay for a measured flow and lease transaction on Rock Creek in the Upper John Day sub-basin. The landowner holds over 90% of the water rights within the Rock Creek watershed, presenting a unique opportunity for watershed-scale work. This transaction will benefit native steelhead which will be able to access high-quality habitat in upper portions of the basin. The ranch that TFT is working with owns multiple water rights in this valley and the transaction has evolved since 2014 to cover the time between May 15th and September 30th for between 1.2 and 3.5 - 4 cubic feet per second (cfs) (4 cfs is the upper end for compensation between May 15th and June 1st and 3.5 cfs is the upper end for the remainder of the season). Compensation is based on flow being above 1.2 cfs on a daily basis throughout the season. TFT is leasing a portion of the water rights involved in the transaction to guarantee downstream protection because the project landowner has enough rights senior to the irrigation water rights below the point of measurement for the overall transaction to ensure flows are in stream throughout the reach proposed.

REVIEW

Project Soundness

The proposed transaction is the result of several years of refinement of this flow project on Rock Creek. By paying for measured flow, funders are assured they are paying for actual water instream, efficiency is gained because it is not necessary to process all of the water rights for the transaction water rights through Oregon Water Resources Department as leases, and the large amounts and varied types of water rights on this ranch can continue to be managed as a unit.

Reviewers felt that the water transaction was sound and likely to achieve the proposed outcomes. Cost is at the top end of the range for the valuation done on this watershed, but because it is a measured flow transaction, this price has been accepted in the past by Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program (CBWTP). TFT noted in the proposal that, based on three years of collected streamflow data, they have not seen more than 3 cfs maintained instream from June through September.

Adequate monitoring, stewardship, and enforcement of water transactions are necessary to ensure that acquired water rights continue to provide the anticipated benefits to flows, habitat, and fish. Reviewers felt that TFT's plans for monitoring compliance with the transaction terms were sufficient; TFT will conduct onsite verification of flows and gage operation in Rock Creek at Derr Meadow over the course of the irrigation season (instream measurements will take place roughly once every four weeks). In addition, level-loggers deployed in multiple monitoring locations within the Rock Creek watershed will

capture flow data at fifteen-minute intervals through the irrigation season and will be reviewed at the end of the season.

A signed landowner agreement was provided by TFT for review but a final landowner agreement was not provided.

Ecological Outcomes

Reviewers gave this transaction a positive review for its proposed benefits to fish, water quality, and connectivity. According to the materials provided, the project primarily aids rearing juvenile salmonids by lowering stream temperatures and providing access to the higher-quality habitat in upper portions of Rock Creek and its tributaries. Species that will benefit are listed Mid-Columbia steelhead and Chinook salmon. Additional flows during the early part of the irrigation season may aid adult steelhead migration during low-flow years. TFT noted that in 2015, the water from a prior iteration of this transaction was the only flow in Rock Creek.

Reviewers noted that while the proposal mentioned that habitat restoration has been proposed to the landowner, this has been mentioned in prior proposals for this project without progress.

The proposal would have benefited from additional description of how fish studies done in prior years (pre-project and in a project year) contributed to understanding of fish usage of this reach.

Organizational Capacity

TFT, and its predecessor the Oregon Water Trust, have participated in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program (CBWTP) since the program's inception in 2002. As a participant in the CBWTP, TFT has undergone a qualification process to demonstrate the organization's capacity to successfully identify, implement, and monitor water transactions. To date, TFT has implemented over 160 water transactions in partnership with the CBWTP. Based on their general experience implementing water transactions under the CBWTP and their specific experience in this watershed, reviewers felt that TFT had sufficient capacity and expertise to implement this transaction.

Summary

This project will provide a one year, short-term, full season measured flow and instream lease to Rock Creek in the Upper John Day sub-basin. Reviewers felt that continued project support was warranted. Reviewers would have liked more information on the likelihood of other restoration actions occurring on this acreage, as well as further description of lessons learned from fish data in prior years. The proposal recognized that there has not been more than 3 cfs maintain instream in Rock Creek from June through September. Because of this, the review team recommendation includes a fund reduction.

Review Team Recommendation

Fund, at 75% of requested instream water lease amount due to the prior three years' of streamflow monitoring data showing that they have not met the flow target.

Staff Recommendation

Fund. This is a measured flow project. As such, OWEB will pay for only the actual water measured instream as a result of this project. OWEB staff recommend fully funding the project in order to provide TFT the opportunity to fully realize the flow restoration targets, understanding that the cost of water could be less than that requested in the original proposal, depending on measured instream flows.

2017 OWEB Grant Offering

Water Lease and Transfer Application

Project Name: North Fork Sprague River Water Conservation Project Management

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Oregon

Application No: 217-9911

Basin: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$33,717

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

Total Cost: \$3,787,159

Application Description

Trout Unlimited Oregon (TU) is seeking \$33,717 for water acquisition project management and administrative water transaction costs and fees. The total water conservation project implementation cost is approximately \$3,787,159. This project has been awarded \$2.7 million in funding from the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) and \$1 million from the Nation Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) for pipeline construction, fill /removal permitting, and associated activities.

The proposed water conservation project on the North Fork Sprague River will benefit bull trout, redband trout and native sucker species, allowing them to better express their life histories. This project will occur on the North Ditch, a large irrigation diversion on the North Fork Sprague River. Water conservation will be realized via piping of the currently open and unlined North Ditch. This project is expected to conserve 35% of water currently diverted into the ditch. Of this water, TU anticipates that 93% will be dedicated to instream flow and legally protected through the OWRD's Allocation of Conserved Water Program. A modest portion (1.2%) will be utilized to develop new irrigated agricultural land (allowed under the program). This translates into approximately 10 cubic feet per second (cfs) of additional instream flow in spring, 2.9 cfs in summer, and 7.9 cfs in the fall. The newly acquired instream water right will be held by the State of Oregon.

REVIEW

Project Soundness

Reviewers felt that the water transaction was sound and had a high likelihood of achieving the proposed outcomes. Based on information provided by TU, it appears that sufficient due diligence measures have been conducted to quantify the amount of water savings that would result from this conservation project, establish the transferability of the saved water to an instream use, and document the value of the water rights to be acquired through application of commonly accepted valuation approaches. TU has coordinated with the OWRD to discuss the amount of water being proposed for implementation under the Allocation of Conserved Water Program and no substantial issues of concern were identified. Applications to this program are planned for submission by June of 2018. Pipeline construction is planned to occur in 2018 and 2019. Thus, water transactions will need to be completed and finalized just prior to the 2020 irrigation season.

Reviewers found that TU understands the watershed context of the project and the importance of addressing other limiting factors. TU notes that increasing flow in the affected reach will provide immediate benefit to passage by providing connectivity to high quality habitat upstream of the North Ditch. It will make more habitat and habitat types available to native species; however, the physical habitat in NF Sprague is of moderate quality on the mid-elevation ranch lands affected by this project.

Additional desired enhancements include an improved riparian area and improved instream cover. These enhancements are achievable and will provide the most benefit upon completion of this water transaction. It is anticipated that landowners and irrigators will continue to work with TU to realize these enhancements in coming years.

Reviewers questioned the following response regarding the value of the water right: *A formal water valuation is not necessary for this project. Water users will not be paid for any part of this water transaction. The project is being implemented under the Allocation of Conserved Water Program.* While TU is not requesting OWEB funding for implementation of the project, significant public investments are being made by the NRCS and OWRD. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$3.7M with the volume of water restored annually being 3,188 acre-feet (AF). This translates to a purchase price of \$1,160/AF, a reasonable price for permanent water.

Adequate monitoring, stewardship, and enforcement of water transactions are necessary to ensure that acquired water rights continue to provide the anticipated benefits to flows, habitat, and fish. Reviewers felt that TU's plans for monitoring and enforcing this water transaction were well designed and should provide the necessary oversight to ensure flows are protected instream. Expansion of population size and miles of occupied stream channel by native fish will be assessed utilizing U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and ODFW fish survey data and compared to pre-project snorkel surveys assessments conducted by ODFW, USFWS and the U.S. Forest Service in 2004, 2006, and 2014. The reviewers asked whether the agencies have a plan for future snorkel surveys and whether the results will be compared to pre-project numbers.

A signed Letter of Intent was provided by TU for review, but a final landowner agreement has not been signed.

Ecological Outcomes

Reviewers gave this transaction high marks for its potential to restore high-quality habitat for a number of key species while also leveraging substantial conservation outcomes through other (non-flow) restoration activities. TU notes:

To allow Bull Trout and Redband Trout to express their complete adfluvial life cycle, increased instream flow in the upper Sprague River is critical. This project will also address recovery actions identified by the USFWS Recovery Plan for Lost River and Shortnose Suckers (USFWS, 2013) by: 1) conserving and restoring riparian and wetland areas along the Wood, Williamson, and Sprague Rivers and Upper Klamath Lake to improve water quality, and; 2) re-establishing stream and river connectivity. While Shortnose and Lost River Suckers are not currently known to use the North or South Fork Sprague Rivers, this project will play an important role in providing additional cold water inputs to the mainstem Sprague River during the summer period when water quality conditions are most limiting for cool water species. In addition to water quantity and temperature improvements, reductions of flood irrigation due to on-farm irrigation improvements are also expected to reduce nutrient loading to the Sprague River and ultimately Upper Klamath Lake.

The proposed water transaction is a unique opportunity to achieve meaningful flow restoration in the North Fork Sprague River benefitting Bull and Redband Trout and Shortnose and Lost River Suckers. The allowed rate of diversion is substantial enough at all times during the irrigation season to limit most aspects of native fish life history. There will be a substantial, measureable increase in protected instream flows throughout the irrigation season. From March 1 through June 15, instream flows will increase by approximately 10 cfs, from June 15 to August 15 by approximately 2.9cfs, and from August 15 to October 1 by approximately 7.9cfs. Any increase in

flow at this site will provide substantial benefit. Of primary significance is the late summer and early fall period when water quality impairment is evident in the Sprague River due to warm temperatures. The proposed water transaction will also provide more cool, clean water to Upper Klamath Lake especially in late summer when water quality conditions are most limiting. Reductions in phosphorus loading will also, in small part, improve overall water quality and benefit the Klamath River downstream of the lake.

Organizational Capacity

TU provided a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) in December 2016 that demonstrated the necessary organizational capacity to complete this water transaction. TU and key staff have a long history of successfully navigating the State's instream transfer process. TU cites a number of relevant examples in their SOQ and has extensive experience in this watershed. Furthermore, TU has demonstrated the ability to provide monitoring and stewardship of past water acquisitions and work with OWRD to resolve issues as they arise.

Summary

The project appears to be well designed and benefit key species of interest in the Upper Klamath Basin. The cost of the transaction appears reasonable compared to water markets in the Upper Klamath Basin and throughout Oregon. TU and its staff have demonstrated the ability to negotiate, implement, and monitor complex water acquisition projects based on their previous experience and should be in a position to implement this acquisition as proposed.

Review Team Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommendation

Fund



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item J – Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
April 24-25, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Summary

Staff will update the board on the first series of Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission meetings and next steps for the commission and rulemaking. Staff will also discuss the potential for board and commission members to meet on the day prior to the June OWEB Board meeting.

II. Background

House Bill 3249 established the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) during the 2017 Legislative Session. Since that time, OWEB has hired a program coordinator, the commission has been approved by the board, and the commission has held four meetings to begin developing program rules. Commission members are provided as Attachment A to the staff report.

III. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Rulemaking

The commission's initial meetings have focused entirely on rulemaking. During early conversations, the commission decided to develop all rules in draft, and then to review the full slate of rules in context of each other before finalizing each rule. To date, commission members have discussed draft rules for the following:

1. Succession planning grants
2. Conservation management plans
3. Working land covenants and easements

A timeline of meetings is provided as Attachment B to the staff report. Staff will provide a brief update of the rulemaking process to date at the April board meeting. All commission information is available online at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/oahp/Pages/index.aspx>.

IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachments

- A. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Commissioners
- B. Schedule for OAHP Rulemaking

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Commissioners

| Name | Residence City/Town | Interest Represented |
|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Chad Allen | Tillamook | Farm/ranch |
| Ken Bailey | The Dalles | Farm/ranch |
| Doug Krahmer | St. Paul | Farm/ranch |
| Woody Wolfe | Wallowa | Farm/ranch |
| Dr. Sam Angima | Corvallis | OSU Extension |
| Mary Wahl | Portland | Fish & Wildlife |
| Bruce Taylor | Portland | Fish & Wildlife |
| Lois Loop | Salem | Agricultural Water Quality |
| Derek Johnson | Portland | Easements |
| Mark Bennett | Unity | Natural Resources |
| Nathan Jackson | Myrtle Creek | Indian tribal |
| Will Neuhauser | Yamhill | <i>Ex officio,</i> non-voting |



Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Proposed Schedule for OAHP Rule Making

| Rulemaking Action | Dates/Deadlines |
|---|---|
| OWEB Board authorization for rulemaking | October 2017 |
| Develop rule headers/concepts | November – December 2017E |
| OWEB Board update and vote on Commissioners | January 31, 2018 |
| Commission Meeting #1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OAHP 101 • Rule headers • Succession planning rulemaking | Thursday, February 1, 2018 |
| Commission Meeting #2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review succession planning rules • Conservation Management Plan rulemaking | Thursday, February 22, 2018 |
| Commission Meeting #3: CMP rules | Thursday, March 8, 2018 |
| Commission Meeting #4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review succession planning rules • Conservation Management Plan rulemaking • Easement/Covenant rulemaking | Thursday, April 5, 2018 |
| Comm. Meeting #5: Easement/covenant rulemaking | Thursday, April 26, 2018 |
| Commission Meeting #6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easement/Covenant rulemaking • Technical Assistance rulemaking • Procedural rulemaking | Wednesday, May 23, 2018 afternoon Thursday, May 24, 2018 all day |
| Provide draft rules to DOJ for feedback | Early June, 2018 |
| Draft Statement Need & Fiscal/ Economic Impact | Early June, 2018 |
| Draft GovDelivery, Secretary of State notice, website | Early June, 2018 |
| Exec. Team review draft rules after DOJ feedback | Mid-June, 2018 |
| Notice filed with Secretary of State | June 20, 2018 |
| Board Update | June 25, 2018 |
| Public comment notice posted online and in Sec. of State bulletin; sent to GovDelivery and legislators | July 1, 2018 |
| Public comment period; hearings around the state | July 1 – July 31, 2018 |
| Exec. Team review and revise draft rules based on public comment | Early August, 2018 |
| Commission Meeting #7: Review public comment | Early August, 2018 |
| DOJ review any significant changes to rules | Mid-August, 2018 |
| Commission Meeting #8: Final draft of rules | Late August, 2018 |
| Send rules to Board to review | September 1, 2018 |
| Board vote on rules | October 2018 |
| Board submit final rules to Secretary of State | October/November 2018 |



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director
Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item K – 2019-2021 Agency Request Budget
April 24-25, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report updates the board about budget preparation for the 2019 Legislative Session and budget proposal ideas that will be included in the Agency Request Budget (ARB) for board consideration in June 2018.

II. Budget Preparations for the 2019 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 policy narratives and justification. The requested additions to an agency's base budget are called "Policy Packages."

OWEB must submit its ARB narrative to the Governor and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) by August 31, 2018. 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.

In advance of preparing the ARB, OWEB staff have discussed agency needs and ideas for budget requests, and are providing early thoughts to the board for discussion at the April meeting. It is anticipated staff will share budget proposals with key stakeholders for their feedback.

III. Budget Outlook

The recent economic forecast projects that the economy will continue to grow at a modest, but slower pace than in recent years. Lottery revenues are expected to continue to grow slightly. While overall state revenues are anticipated to increase, the amount is not expected to keep up with increasing state payroll costs and other cost

increases associated primarily with health care, corrections and education. In addition, revenues are expected to continue to be impacted by the roll-back associated with the PERS reform implemented last biennium.

Based on this information, DAS has signaled revenues will not be sufficient to cover the combined current service level expenditures and costs faced by the state budget for 2019-21. Therefore, current service level expenditure reductions are anticipated for both General and Lottery funded agencies. Each biennium, agencies are required to submit a report that lists 10 percent reduction options from current service level by priority for all fund sources. Despite this, full reductions have not been taken in the past few budget cycles. This coming budget cycle may require the implementation of some degree of reductions, depending on the revenue outlook and the level of remaining ending balances from the 2017-19 biennium.

IV. OWEB Functions Analysis

Given the anticipated budget limitations, when considering budget needs for the 2019-21 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, in addition to the agency's base budget, the ARB include funding for positions and contracted services identified in Attachment B to the staff report.

Staff currently are coordinating with the Governor's Office and other agencies on various other ideas for policy packages, and may have additional information regarding 2019-21 budget concepts at either the April or June board meetings.

V. Next Steps for Budget Development

Staff will bring an updated list of packages for inclusion in the 2019-21 ARB for the board's consideration and approval at the June 2018 meeting.

VI. 2017-19 Budget and Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF)

Related to OWEB's current 2017-2019 budget, staff have submitted the final grant application to NOAA Fisheries for funding under PCSRF in federal fiscal year 2018. OWEB, on behalf of the State of Oregon, is requesting \$25 million, the maximum amount of funding possible. This request requires a 33% match, which comes 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.

VII. Recommendation

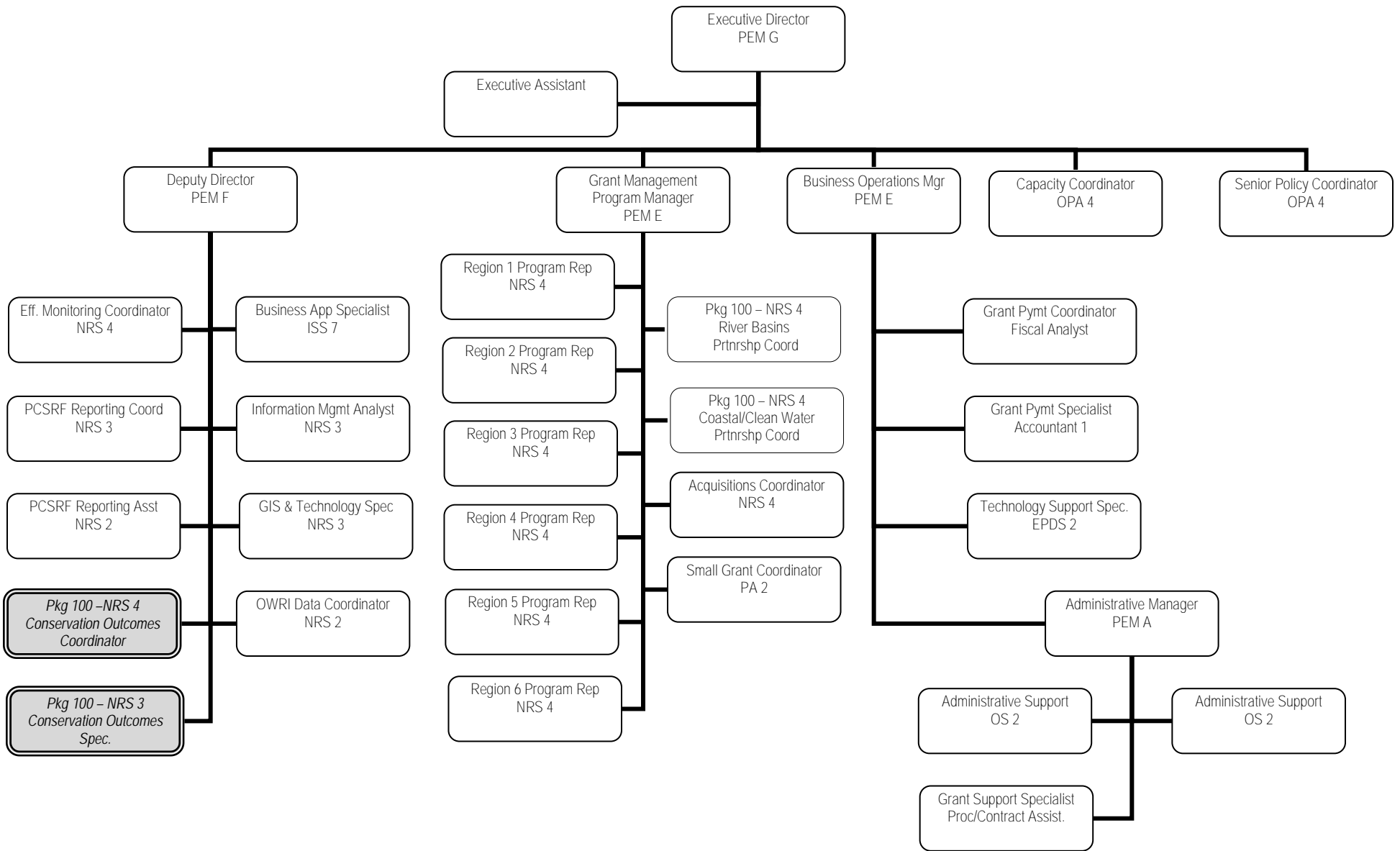
This report is for informational purposes only.

Attachments

- A. OWEB Organizational Chart, 2017-2019
- B. Draft Proposed Policy Option Packages for OWEB's 2019-2021 ARB

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Organizational Chart 2017-2019 Legislatively Adopted Budget

ATTACHMENT A



Permanent

Limited Duration FTE

33.0 - FTE
33.0 - Positions

**OWEB 2019-2021 Agency Request Budget
Policy Option Package Proposals**

| 1. Program Continuity | Amount | FTE | OWEB Strategic Plan Priority ¹ |
|---|---------|------|---|
| <p><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 Coordinated Streamside Management program, the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership and other similar initiatives. The position works with other agencies and local stakeholders to develop conservation outcome metrics, coordinate monitoring and data management frameworks, and report results at the landscape level and statewide scales. This position helps to measure and report on salmon habitat and recovery activities across the state.</p> | 285,000 | 1.00 | 6 and 1 |
| <p><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. The position assists with implementation of coordinated monitoring, adaptive management, and shared learning aspects of OWEB’s updated strategic plan.</p> | 200,000 | 1.00 | 6 and 1 |

¹ Based on the current draft of OWEB’s strategic plan, these references denote connections between policy option packages and strategic plan priorities.

| 2. Program Enhancement | Amount | FTE | OWEB Strategic Plan Priority |
|--|-----------|-----|------------------------------|
| <p><u>Contracted Services</u> – OWEB Measure 76 grant funds are not eligible to use for contracting. There are certain work products and functions required by OWEB’s programs that are most efficiently and effectively accomplished through personal services contracts. The contracting funds included in OWEB’s base budget are not sufficient to cover the full range of the agency’s contracting needs. This request ensures OWEB has adequate funds available for contracting purposes next biennium.</p> <p>These funds will be used in lieu of hiring additional staff to provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Long-term protection implementation, including ecological, title and appraisal reviews for an increasing number of land acquisition grant applications that are being received by OWEB, and initiation of the first biennial cycle of 6-year monitoring for all of OWEB’s land acquisitions investments; 2. Effectiveness monitoring of OWEB’s restoration investments with the federal government via the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program; 3. Improvements to OWEB’s statutorily required reporting for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds Biennial Report; and 4. Staff training to ensure effective management of grants that support watershed restoration and conservation. | \$375,000 | N/A | 1, 3 and 6 |
| <p><u>Online Systems Project Management</u> – Beginning in the 2015-2017 biennium, OWEB initiated a series of improvements to its business processes to increase efficiency and provide higher quality customer service. One component was creation of an online grant application system to complement OWEB’s existing fiscal management data system. OWEB is continuing this work by transitioning more of its process and requests a 0.5 FTE position (Project Manager 2) to work with OWEB customers and staff to scope online system functionality, manage system improvements and coordinate testing and refinement of the system through time.</p> | \$150,000 | 0.5 | N/A |
| <p><u>Partnerships Coordinator (NRS4)</u> – A project management position is needed to address workload created by the board’s increase in grants for Focused Investment Partnerships, which are long-term investments in high performing partnerships implementing restoration actions to achieve ecological outcomes at the landscape scale. Based on preliminary discussions, the board is expected to increase FIP investment by \$7 million in the 19-21 biennium, to a total of \$22 million, or 25% of OWEB’s grant portfolio. The additional position is needed to manage this increased investment.</p> | \$285,000 | 1.0 | 3 and 7 |

| 3. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program | Amount | FTE | OWEB Strategic Plan |
|---|---------------|------------|----------------------------|
| This request is for funding to support the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. This program offers voluntary tools that help farmers and ranchers maintain land as active farms and ranches while providing incentives and support for conservation on those lands. The request includes \$5.25 million in grants for succession planning, conservation management plans, and working land conservation covenants and easements. It also requests \$725,000 for associated staff costs to implement the program. Positions needed to implement this program include an OPA4 (1.0 FTE) to provide overall program coordination, an NRS4 (1.0 FTE) to coordinate the working land covenants and easements, and an OS2 (0.5 FTE) to provide program support. | \$6,000,000 | TBD | 5 |

| 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 2019-2021 biennium. | TBD | N/A | N/A |

| 5. Additional Grant Funds | Amount | FTE | OWEB Strategic Plan |
|--|---------------|------------|----------------------------|
| This policy package would allow OWEB to receive and expend funds from Oregon Department of Forestry as grants for forest collaboratives under the State’s Federal Forest Health Program, should this service be requested and if additional funds are appropriated by the Legislature for these purposes in 2019-2021. | \$750,000 | N/A | 4 |

| 6. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Federal Funds Limitation | Amount | FTE | OWEB Strategic Plan |
|---|-------------|-----|---------------------|
| This policy package would allow OWEB to receive and expend as grants funding from NRCS for local technical and administrative assistance, should this service be requested and if federal funds are available for these purposes during the 2019-21 biennium. | \$1,000,000 | N/A | 5 |

OWEB Strategic Plan Priorities

1. Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds
2. Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians
3. Community capacity and strategic partnerships support resilience in watersheds
4. Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio
5. The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health
6. Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness
7. Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon’s watersheds



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item L-1 – Focused Investment Partnership Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring Funding Request
April 24-25, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff request the board approve funding to support programmatic effectiveness monitoring work for Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP), as well as funding to support Bonneville Environmental Foundation's (BEF) ongoing work related to FIP effectiveness monitoring.

II. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Progress Monitoring Framework

OWEB and BEF partnered to develop a progress monitoring framework for Implementation FIPs. The FIP monitoring approach has offered a unique opportunity to identify effective ways to measure progress toward outcomes under six-year investments in Implementation partnerships. It creates a practical and consistent framework for measuring and communicating progress toward achieving implementation objectives (outputs) and predicted ecological results (outcomes). The key elements of the progress monitoring framework are a results chain and a cross-walk matrix, which have been presented to the board at previous meetings including most recently at the October 2017 board meeting. In addition to tracking and communicating progress, the framework is intended to be an effective tool to inform adaptive management of restoration initiatives by FIP partners.

As reported previously to the board, the BEF team engaged with each Implementation FIP to collaboratively construct and vet results chains and cross-walks unique to each program. Subsequently, OWEB and BEF staff reached out to each of the FIPs to discuss their existing monitoring plans and approaches and potential monitoring or reporting gaps identified through the results chain process. OWEB recognizes that the ability to fill such gaps would likely strengthen each FIP's ability to describe and communicate a more holistic and accurate narrative about progress being achieved by their work. A preliminary list of potential gaps has been compiled.

Staff request \$750,000 from the Focused Investment EM line item in the board's spending plan to provide resources to the Implementation FIPs to fill priority gaps and enable BEF's ongoing engagement with this work through the end of the biennium.

OWEB and BEF staff will work with the FIPs to identify the top 1-2 priorities for monitoring, tracking and/or reporting. Grant applications proposing work to address these priorities will be reviewed by a team involving staff from OWEB's Technical Services and Grant Management programs and BEF, along one or more members of the FIP Technical Review Team and, as needed, others with relevant technical expertise. The review process will ensure that the proposed actions fill gaps in a way that increases the FIP's ability to quantify its progress toward outputs and outcomes.

A modest portion of the funding would be used to support BEF's ongoing engagement in the FIP monitoring effort including to refine the cross-walk tables, develop a reporting tool to visualize progress to the board and other funders through time and graphics to convey results chains in a simplified manner for use with less-technical audiences, develop adaptive management guidance for each FIP and, where applicable, explore opportunities for integrating social values components into the progress monitoring framework approach. In addition, the funding would support training of other OWEB grantees in theory of change concepts. Finally, upon selection of the FIPs for the 2019-21 biennium, BEF would complete the results chain and cross-walk process with the newly selected FIPs.

III. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board award \$623,750 from the Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan to support grants to fill priority gaps for Implementation FIPs, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of April 25, 2018.

Staff recommend the board award \$126,250 from the Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan to continue Bonneville Environmental Foundation's work with OWEB on FIP monitoring by increasing grant 216-8390-12951, as described in Section II of this staff report..



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director
Audrey Hatch, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item L-2 – Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness
Monitoring Funding Request
April 24-25, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff request the board approve funding to support open solicitation programmatic effectiveness monitoring to help OWEB and grantees combine quantitative data with restoration examples around the state to better 'tell the restoration story.'

II. Open Solicitation Effectiveness Monitoring: Telling the Restoration Story

Staff have been working with the board's Monitoring Subcommittee to develop a monitoring-based approach to 'tell the story' of restoration. The concept was first raised in earnest at the October 2016 board meeting. Board members expressed interest in having examples from around the state of areas in which the board has invested restoration dollars, then overlaying quantitative data that describe the ecological results of these investments.

Staff then identified options, which include:

- a) a retrospective approach that leverages existing data and pairs that with information about restoration investments to understand possible linkages and trends;
- b) a prospective approach in which monitoring is planned and data are collected before implementation of restoration begins, and continues to track the ecological effects of restoration through time; and
- c) a hybrid approach that leverages existing data, but provides the opportunity to collect supplemental data to better answer the question of restoration effectiveness.

Subsequent discussions with the Monitoring Subcommittee identified that while a prospective approach is ideal, retrospective and hybrid options are practical alternatives and can be applied in the near term. Based on these discussions, staff analyzed OWEB's restoration investments for geographic and restoration action diversity, identified

relevant data for selected locations and identified areas of 'high potential' for pairing restoration information and monitoring data to tell the restoration story.

Staff are requesting \$200,000 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic effectiveness monitoring line item in the board's spending plan to pursue an initial slate of retrospective analyses to 'tell the story.' Funding will support work by local partners (in close coordination with OWEB staff) to quantify restoration investments in identified local areas, analyze and/or interpret existing monitoring data for the local area, and draft a story describing the ecological effects of restoration and lessons learned from this work, using an OWEB-developed template to ensure consistency among the stories. Staff estimate that this funding will support telling the story in 8-12 locations around the state.

III. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board award \$200,000 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan to support grants for an initial slate of retrospective analyses to tell the restoration story, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of April 25, 2018.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item L-3 – Conservation Effectiveness Partnership Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring Funding Request
April 24-25, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff request funding to support new work associated with programmatic effectiveness monitoring for the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership.

II. Conservation Effectiveness Partnership (CEP)

CEP is an interagency collaboration among OWEB; Oregon Departments of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Agriculture, and Fish and Wildlife; and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The partnership aims to describe the effectiveness of cumulative conservation and restoration actions in achieving natural resources outcomes through collaborative monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. CEP has completed case studies in several areas, including the Wilson River, Whychus Creek, Fifteenmile Creek, and Prairie Creek, and has work underway in Willow Creek and Dairy Creek. The CEP approach has been used as a model for OWEB's approach to tell the story of its restoration investments, as described above.

One area of previous focus is Fifteenmile Creek, which is located mostly in northern Wasco County. Historic agricultural and forestry land management activities caused soil loss and sediment and sedimentation in Fifteenmile Creek, adversely affecting aquatic life leading DEQ to list the waterbody as impaired for sediment in 1998. The watershed also has faced water temperature issues that have impacted salmonids. In response to these issues, landowners in the watershed have implemented conservation practices for agriculture and forestry to reduce soil loss, in addition to undertaking extensive riparian restoration work to address water temperature issues.

An opportunity has emerged for the CEP partners to update the Fifteenmile case study with updated analyses and information. The National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)—involving NRCS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and state water quality agencies—provided financial assistance to implement conservation work, along with funding for development of a monitoring program to evaluate water quality improvements. Leveraging these resources, DEQ and a contractor evaluated various sediment metrics to determine which most effectively describes in-stream effects of

conservation practices. In 2016, DEQ—on behalf of the CEP partners and in coordination with local partners—collected data based on this evaluation. Staff request \$15,725 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic EM line item in the board’s spending plan to complete analysis of these data and update the Fifteenmile Creek case study, in coordination with CEP partners.

III. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board award \$15,725 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan to complete data analyses and update the Fifteenmile Creek case study for the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of April 25, 2018.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item M: Organization Collaboration Grant Awards
April 24-25, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the 2017-2019 Organization Collaboration grant offerings, and outlines the staff recommendation for a grant award for the March 2018 application offering.

II. Background

OWEB initially announced this grant offering in July 2013. The funding is intended to support new, or expand, strategic collaborations in order to build resilient, sustainable, local organizations that achieve ecological outcomes and engage communities. Organizational Collaboration grants may support the following activities:

- 1) Evaluating the operational structure of multiple collaborating organizations to improve service delivery or reach under-served communities/geographies, which may result in sharing of staff and services among the organizations.
- 2) The merger/consolidation of organizations.

The applicants must demonstrate that the options being considered will strengthen the impact and build resiliency and sustainability of multiple organizations to help increase their ability to implement restoration and/or acquisition projects on the ground.

Since its inception, six grants have been awarded for a total of \$493,869. Of the \$200,000 allocated for Organizational Collaboration grants in the 2017-2019 spending plan, \$72,848 is remaining.

III. Solicitation Process

In August 2017, staff announced the Organization Collaboration grant offering for the 2017-2019 biennium, with deadlines in September and December of 2017, and March and September of 2018. Prior to submitting a proposal, applicants are required to participate in a consultation with the Capacity Programs Coordinator. During the consultations, staff discuss the purpose of the program, allowable activities, evaluation criteria, and timing.

IV. Review

One application was received by the March 2018 deadline. The applicants, Rickreall and Glenn Gibson watershed councils were interviewed by OWEB staff and review team members on March 16, 2018. The interview included board and staff members from each watershed council. The interview focused on understanding how the existing structure limits capacity for stakeholder engagement and conservation actions, the openness and shared commitment of the watershed councils to change, and the likelihood of success of the project.

V. Current Grant Cycle Staff Funding Recommendations

Staff recommend funding the application as described in Attachment B. The watershed councils have worked together in various forms for many years. The application demonstrates the watershed councils are committed to this process and ready to explore organizational options to improve their collective capacity to engage stakeholders and implement conservation actions. The councils will begin by mapping their current structure and then begin to discuss how to structure the councils in the future to maximize organizational effectiveness and their collective ability to implement conservation actions.

VI. Recommendations

Staff recommend the board award the Organization Collaboration grant as described in Attachment A.

Attachments

- A. Staff Funding Recommendation
- B. Evaluations

Staff Funding Recommendation March 2018 Organization Collaboration Applications

| Project Number | Applicant | Project Title | OWEB Request | Amount Recommended | Brief Description |
|--|----------------------|---|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| 218-8007-16260 | Cascade Pacific RC&D | Mid-Willamette Partnership Facilitation | \$48,945 | \$72,848 | The Rickreall and Glenn Gibson watershed councils would like to conduct an organization situational analysis, explore alternative partnering arrangements, and build a clear, sustainable plan for how to proceed into the future. The plan should optimize the ability of participating organizations to provide benefit to the constituents and watershed(s) they represent. To achieve this, the two councils propose a facilitated, inclusive process open to all stakeholders. |
| Total Request | | | \$48,945 | | |
| Total Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff | | | | \$72,848 | |

Organization Collaboration Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 218-8007-16260

OWEB Region: 3

Application Name: Mid-Willamette Partnership Facilitation

Requested Amount: \$48,945.00

Applicant's Summary: There have been a variety of financial and cooperative relationships in the Mid-Willamette Valley among the Rickreall, Glenn-Gibson, and Luckiamute watershed councils, and other conservation service providers in Polk County. The relationships have changed over the past twenty years reflecting changing opportunities for funding and requirements by funders.

The RWC and GGWC would like to conduct an organization situational analysis, explore alternative partnering arrangements, and build a clear, sustainable plan for how to proceed into the future. The plan should optimize the ability of participating organizations to provide benefit to the constituents and watershed(s) they represent. To achieve this, the two councils propose a facilitated, inclusive process open to all stakeholders.

OWEB funds will pay for professional facilitation, business analytical services, legal and financial due diligence, coordinator time, meeting room rentals, food, and beverages, as well as travel, lodging, and staff time for outside groups presenting to the partners.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- Both watershed councils understand that the current organizational structure limits both organizational effectiveness as well as their collective ability to engage stakeholders and implement conservation actions.
- The watershed councils have recently made some changes, such as joint chair and district manager meetings to improve communication among the partners.
- Both watershed councils believe that the timing is right to have this conversation and demonstrated commitment to the process.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- Polk SWCD is the employer of the shared council coordinator, their absence from active membership of the partnership and involvement in all of the discussions could lead to problems down the road.
- The watershed councils are still not clear on how they want to operate, either individually or collectively in the future. Although this is acceptable, it will likely make the process more challenging and extend the timeline.
- The timeline is overly ambitious. This process will likely require many difficult conversations between the watershed council boards; the process needs to allow for those conversations to happen.
- The budget underestimates the time and expense for a facilitator and, if necessary, legal review.

Concluding Analysis: The watershed councils have worked together in various forms for many years and are currently operating under a very complex structure. The watershed councils demonstrated they are ready to explore organizational options to improve their collective capacity to engage stakeholders and implement conservation actions. The lack of official Polk SWCD involvement will likely prove challenging and the councils will need to work hard to engage the SWCD when necessary in discussions. The initial phase, analyzing the current structure, must be complete before the councils can move into phase II, deciding where to go next.

Review Team Recommendation: Fund with conditions and increased funds

Staff Recommendation: Fund with conditions and increased funds.

Conditions:

Phase I: The watershed councils may use up to \$25,000 to hire a contractor to complete an analysis of the current organizational structure, and develop a budget and work plan for phase II that should lead to a decision on a future organizational structure.

Phase II: The watershed councils may use up to \$47,848 to work with a facilitator to determine a future organizational structure.

Amount: \$72,848



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item O – Strategic Plan
April 24-25, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

OWEB staff and Dialogues in Action (DIA) will seek the board's feedback on the revised strategies and proposed actions that have emerged from an extensive community involvement process in developing OWEB's new strategic plan.

II. Background

OWEB approved its last strategic plan in 2010 during a time when the agency and its associated funding were expected to sunset in 2015. At the same time, Constitutional Ballot Measure 76 passed in Oregon, making OWEB's funding permanent.

As a result of the shift to permanent funding, the board then undertook an effort in 2012-13 to develop a Long-Term Investment Strategy for granting. The strategy 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 eight years since the board approved its last strategic plan and 2018 will be five years after board approval of the strategy.

III. Strategic Plan Process Steps to Date

Who We Are: In January 2017, the board formally initiated its strategic planning process. Both the board and all OWEB staff began developing the "Who We Are" portion of the strategic plan.

Interviews: Also in January, board members and the newly established staff process team members interviewed a range of OWEB stakeholders about their experiences and work with OWEB, each interviewing at least one stakeholder.

Listening Sessions: In March 2017, OWEB staff traveled with Steve Patty to six locations across Oregon to hold strategic planning listening sessions, in addition to one virtual listening session webinar. In total, approximately 80 individuals attended, including grantees, regional review team members, agency partners, and others.

Stakeholder Surveys: In April 2017, surveys were sent broadly to stakeholders and partners to identify what is working well in their interactions with OWEB, as well as

areas for improvement. That information was provided to the board at their June meeting.

External Advisory Group: In May and June 2017, the board's established External Advisory Group synthesized and expanded on information from interviews, listening sessions, and stakeholder surveys. In October, the group provided their input to the strategy development and they helped to prioritize strategies in January 2018.

Board Strategic Plan Discussions: In January, April, June, July, and October 2017, as well as January 2018, the board met to vet the ideas proposed through the many processes identified above, which has resulted in the latest versions of "Strategic Priorities for Impact" and a draft of the supporting implementation actions for each priority (Attachments A and B).

IV. April Board Meeting Discussion

Strategy Finalization: In January 2018, the board provided a set of updates to the strategies that were developed by staff to address the board's strategic priorities. Those updates are made and the board will review the final strategies.

Action Development: Staff have taken each of the strategies and developed associated actions. At the April meeting, staff will outline the process used to arrive at actions and the associated timing and resources needed. Staff will highlight actions and receive board feedback on the direction proposed.

Strategic Plan Implementation Grants: Staff will introduce a concept to the board of the use of grants to assist in the implementation of the strategic plan. As has been noted throughout the process, many partners are working on similar strategies or have expertise that could help the board expedite plan implementation and bring fresh ideas to the bold initiatives proposed. Staff would like the board to consider adding a spending plan line item in June 2018 that would allow for investment in this work. This request is also referenced in the Open Solicitation Grant staff report (agenda item G-1).

In this meeting, the board will consider the whole picture of the strategic plan, with particular attention to the frames of action. This will be a time to examine the form of the strategies, the sequence and pacing of the strategies, and the implications of the strategies for the next stretch of OWEB. The board will be invited to reflect on the big picture of direction, priority, and pacing.

V. Recommendation

This is a discussion item only.

Attachments

- A. Most recent version of "Strategic Priorities for Impact" with draft plan strategies.
- B. Draft version of implementation actions for each priority.

OWEB - Strategic Priorities with Strategies

Draft Materials for Review by the OWEB Board

January 30-31, 2018

Priority 1 - Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds

What we mean

OWEB serves as an information source and catalyst for partners as they carry messages to their stakeholders about the importance of watersheds to the health and vitality of all Oregonians. This will include the development of story-telling and community engagement with dual goals. First, to help Oregonians take an active role in the health of their watershed and second, to increase awareness of the role watersheds play in improving the well-being of the people who reside in them. This will result in a growing care and stewardship of local watersheds and a deeper commitment to watershed work throughout the state.

Strategies

~~1.~~ **1. Develop and implement broad awareness campaigns and highlight personal stories to tell the economic, restoration and community successes of watershed investments** ~~Develop and implement broad awareness campaigns~~

Develop innovative and consistent messaging. Use existing networks to deliver broadly relevant messages to traditional and non-traditional audiences. OWEB will partner with outside entities as a vehicle for broad engagement. Harmonize existing ecological, social, and economic data with personal stories of watershed conservation.

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

New, non-traditional partners (corporations, recreation and healthcare industries, etc.) can add value to strategic partnerships that improve watershed health. This takes new and different approaches to reach out to partners and engage them in ways that benefit their organization. Outreach is one critical component of establishing and maintaining partnerships.

~~2.1.~~ **Highlight personal stories to tell the economic, restoration and community successes of watershed investments**

~~Harmonize existing ecological, social, and economic data with personal stories of watershed conservation.~~

Comment [ML1]: Moved from previous strategic partners priority

Comment [ML2]: Is now part of strategy 1.1 above

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

What we mean

OWEB's board and staff will engage with partners and grantees to develop models and approaches that actively involve all Oregonians in improving the health of our watersheds. In its own practice, OWEB will seek out and develop leaders that reflect the diversity of Oregon to engage them in the rewarding work improving the health of their watersheds. OWEB will adopt practices that support diversity in our own work and encourage equity in our grant-making through training, peer-to-peer learning, and other awareness-increasing approaches. This will shape the culture of the watershed work over time, developing a restoration system that is diverse and inclusive.

Strategies

1. Listen, Learn and Gather Information about diverse populations

The agency will start by learning from others with more experience and knowledge. This includes a commitment to continuous learning by understanding who our current grantees, partners and stakeholders are and clearly identifying the gaps in these areas and how they are represented. This is important to fully incorporate inclusive approaches into OWEB's mission.

2. ~~Evaluate and c~~reate new opportunities to expand who is at the table

OWEB will evaluate staff and board recruitment processes to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion to meet the agency's core mission. OWEB will intentionally reach out to and engage under-represented communities for staff and board recruitment. In addition, OWEB will work with stakeholders to help them improve their work to recruit and engage under-represented communities for staffing, volunteers, and board members at local organization.

3. Develop funding strategies with a lens toward diversity, equity, and inclusion

As OWEB defines and develops understanding around increasing inclusion, the agency will develop strategies to address the gaps identified in the information-gathering phase. This includes intentionally considering the impact and relevance of diversity, equity and inclusion in OWEB's grant-making to meet the agency's core mission.

Priority 3 - Community capacity and strategic partnerships supports resilience in watersheds

What we mean

OWEB will work with partners at all levels to design resources and deploy tools to enhance the capacity of communities and strategic partnerships to participate in cooperative conservation. ~~Local Partnerships at all levels~~ will have the support they need to develop and implement strategic, science-based approaches to improve watershed health. OWEB will support watershed organizations and associated watershed work at all levels in pursuit of a statewide restoration network that is resilient and sustainable, and capable of achieving ecological outcomes. OWEB will be a statewide champion for partnerships in watershed health. OWEB will help develop the environment and provide guidance to allow strong and effective partnerships of all sizes and at all levels to grow and flourish. Partnerships that are more inclusive, equitable, effective, consistent, reliable, purposeful, and innovative will amplify the impact of watershed work and develop resilience and capacity in the organizations seeking to improve and sustain healthy watersheds.

Strategies

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

OWEB has been funding the operating capacity of watershed councils and water quality program implementation through SWCDs for more than 18 years. OWEB intends to continue funding watershed councils and SWCDs, while exploring both how the funding is provided and ways to improve its effectiveness in achieving watershed health outcomes.

2. Evaluate Support best approaches to invest buildin organizational, community, and partnership capacity

Organizations and agencies at all levels provide various forms of capacity to support restoration work. OWEB will evaluate approaches to help stakeholders identify capacity needs and gaps, and determine capacity investment opportunities that increase restoration on the ground.

~~3. Provide funding and support for regional shared services~~

~~Many individual organizations cannot support all the functions they need to deliver services locally. Analyze approaches that help communities share services – not every organization needs to internally house all functions.~~

Comment [ML3]: Is now one of the 'best approaches' in 3.2 above

3. Continue to catalyze and increase state/federal agency participation in strategic partnerships

Natural resource agencies have complementary missions in support of watershed health. OWEB can support existing and new models that increase engagement of state/federal agencies in strategic partnerships.

Comment [ML4]: Moved from previous 'strategic partnerships' priority

Priority 4—Strategic partnerships to achieve healthy watersheds

Comment [ML5]: Given its overlap with both the 'community capacity' and 'stable funding' priorities, this priority was deleted

What we mean

~~OWEB will be a statewide champion for partnerships in watershed health. OWEB will help develop the environment and provide guidance to allow strong and effective partnerships of all sizes and at all levels to grow and flourish. Partnerships that are more inclusive, equitable, effective, consistent, reliable, purposeful, and innovative will amplify the impact of watershed work and develop resilience and capacity in the organizations seeking to improve and sustain healthy watersheds.~~

Strategies

4. ~~Identify areas for alignment of strategic partnership investments with other funders~~

~~Oregon has a number of public and private funding organizations that have an interest in natural resources, conservation, and communities. Providing support to align and coordinate resources and focuses will help achieve more efficient and timely use of resources to address common priorities.~~

Comment [ML6]: Is part of all funding strategies in the 'diverse and stable funding portfolio' strategy

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

~~New, non traditional partners (corporations, recreation and healthcare industries, etc.) can add value to strategic partnerships that improve watershed health. This takes new and different approaches to reach out to partners and engage them in ways that benefit their organization. Outreach is one critical component of establishing and maintaining partnerships.~~

Comment [ML7]: Moved to 'broad awareness' priority

6.1. ~~Continue to catalyze and increase state/federal agency participation in strategic partnerships~~

~~Natural resource agencies have complementary missions in support of watershed health. OWEB can support existing and new models that increase engagement of state/federal agencies in strategic partnerships.~~

7. ~~Develop more robust partnership support for stakeholders~~

~~OWEB will enable the successful development of new partnerships and help existing partnerships thrive. OWEB's role is to support, not lead, the partnership process.~~

Comment [ML8]: Part of all sections of the 'community capacity' priority

8. ~~Provide tools to help strategic partnerships to assess and improve their effectiveness~~

~~OWEB will work with stakeholders to develop a strategic partnership evaluation tools to help partnerships to assess their partnerships. From this information, local partners and OWEB can identify partnership organizational outcomes and gather lessons learned.~~

Comment [ML9]: Now an action under 'community capacity' priority, strategy 2

Priority 54 - Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio

What we mean

OWEB will work with traditional and non-traditional funders to support the work that watershed organizations accomplish in communities. At the same time, OWEB and partners will work with these same organizations to strengthen their ability to seek and secure more diverse funding sources for watershed work. This two-pronged approach will provide communities the resources to move forward strategically and boldly in addressing watershed restoration needs.

Strategies

1. ~~State Agency Strategy:~~ Increase coordination of publicstate restoration investments and develop funding vision

There are a number of publicstate agencies who provide funding related to watershed health, water quality and habitat. OWEB can support the development of statewide coordination of investments including grants, mitigation, and other funding mechanisms.

2. ~~Foundation strategy:~~ Identify Align common investment areas with private foundations

Foundations may or may not know about the important restoration work occurring in Oregon. While restoration may not be a priority for foundations, the additional benefits of restoration projects may be. Jobs, community capacity, health, and community resiliency are just a few additional benefits that come from restoration projects, which may be of interest to private foundations.

3. ~~Corporate strategy:~~ Explore creative funding opportunities/partnerships with the private sector

Corporations in Oregon have a vested interest in clean water and healthy watersheds. OWEB will work with partners to identify ways to help corporations invest strategically in the health of their local watershed.

4. Design strategies for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources

OWEB's investments over the last 20 years have done a great deal to advance large scale, complex restoration work in Oregon. However, there is more to be done. Addressing the impacts of climate change, aging water and other infrastructure, and sustaining working lands for future generations may require new and innovative strategies and funding sources.

Comment [ML10]: Added based on conversations at January board meeting

Priority 56 - The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health

What we mean

OWEB will develop strategies to help local partners engage broader participation among those who own and manage working lands. This includes working broadly with partners who own or manage working lands and conservation communities to develop intentional approaches that fully embrace the value of well-managed working lands to habitat, water quality, and local economies.

NOTE: "Working land" means land that is actively used by an agricultural or forest land owner or operator for an agricultural or forestland operation that includes, but need not be limited to, active engagement in farming, ranching or timber management.

Strategies

1. Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

Working with partners and the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission, finalize rules, solicit for applications, and determine appropriate funding sources for working lands easements, management plans, and succession planning for agricultural landowners. Full implementation is funding-dependent.

2. Strengthen engagement with a broad base of working landowners

Oregon's natural resource industries - agriculture, forestry, fishing, recreation – are dependent on healthy watersheds for their sustainability. Working with others who have direct experience and knowledge working with a broad range of landowners in Oregon, OWEB will gain an understanding of how to improve conservation on working lands, particularly with landowners who may not have previously worked with an OWEB grantee.

Comment [ML11]: Added based on January board meeting conversation

~~2.3.~~ Work Enhance the work of with partners to increase working lands projects on farm, ranch and forestlands

There are many areas in the state where working lands strategies and habitat/water quality priorities intersect. A number of statewide agencies and organizations have strong connections with farmers, ranchers and forest land owners. OWEB will partner with those organizations (formally and informally) to increase landowner involvement in conservation – whether through a program or on their own. OWEB can continue to work with partners at the state and local level to identify strategic areas where the agency can focus its investments on that intersection, highlighting the compatibility of working lands conservation strategies.

~~3.4.~~ Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands

While local organizations are very effective at working with farm, ranch and forest landowners, there are some landowners/managers who have not yet been engaged in conservation for a variety of reasons. OWEB can coordinate with other partners to help local organizations effectively engage new landowners in their community.

~~4.5.~~ Develop engagement strategies for owners/managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations

Landowner engagement will be an important component of the working lands movement to build understanding and support for the work as well as identify opportunities to work with interested land owners.

Priority 76 - Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

What we mean

OWEB will develop greater capacity throughout the system of watershed stakeholders to monitor progress, learn from projects, track effectiveness, gather data, respond to data, and advance the cause of healthy, resilient watersheds through monitoring and evaluation. OWEB will work with partners to ensure frameworks to receive and share information exist. These frameworks will take advantage of the best scientific thinking and latest methods and technology in and outside the restoration community. OWEB and partners will develop monitoring 'networks' to which organizations in all parts of the state can contribute.

Strategies

1. ~~Initiate Broadly communicate~~ **broad communication of restoration outcomes and impacts**

Expand broad communications about the ecological and socio-economic results of OWEB's investments to demonstrate the value of these investments and their connection to human well-being.

2. ~~Strategically invest in~~ **invest in monitoring over the long term**

For effectiveness monitoring to be successful there needs to be long term sustained effort – or, at the very least, an ability to sample or measure indicators at appropriate time scales.

3. **Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring**

Develop monitoring and adaptive management guidance to provide technical support.

4. **Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners**

Develop communication strategies to share results, incorporate information into restoration planning, and support adaptive management. This will be accomplished through the creation of networks, venues and communication tools that bridge the gap between research/monitoring and on-the-ground work.

5. **Define monitoring priorities**

Assess what OWEB wants to achieve through monitoring and then create the resources and tools necessary. Define appropriate monitoring scopes or scales. Consider the operational contexts to determine what is appropriate for any given partnership or organization.

6. **Develop and promote a monitoring framework**

Encourage local partners to develop consistent approaches, clear goals, shared scope and scale for their watershed monitoring.

Priority 87 - Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds

What we mean

OWEB will catalyze, support, and encourage the design and implementation of watershed health innovations by grant applicants. These innovations can reach beyond project implementation to touch all areas of OWEB's granting that support healthy watersheds – from capacity and partnership development to technical assistance, implementation, and monitoring. OWEB will continually weigh the agency's investment risk to encourage design and experimentation in watershed work while ensuring the public benefits from our investments.

Strategies

1. Invest in landscape restoration over the long-term

Expand funding opportunities for large-scale conservation efforts over multiple years

2. ~~Develop appropriate investment approaches~~ in conservation that recognize the dual conservation and economic drivers and benefits of watershed actions support healthy communities and strong economies

Traditional conservation incentives may hinder participation; while at the same time, new, untested incentives may be developed to reach new audiences. In addition, effectively conserving and restoring watersheds requires a thorough understanding of how economics and restoration/conservation actions intersect.

3. ~~Provide space for~~ Foster experimentation and capture lessons from restoration and partnership investments that aligns with OWEB's mission

Deliberately invest in both programs/projects that are traditional (with predictable outcomes) and innovative (where more risk exists).

OWEB Actions Draft 4/8/2018

Priority 1 - Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds

Strategy 1.1: Develop and implement broad awareness campaigns and highlight personal stories to tell the economic, restoration, and community successes of watershed investments ⁽¹⁾

Intent

Broad care and stewardship of Oregon's natural places can come about only by greater understanding, awareness, and appreciation by each Oregonian of the impact of their everyday actions on the health of their watersheds. OWEB, working with Oregon Lottery, watershed councils, SWCDs, land trusts and others, will tell the stories of the people, places, and partnerships that make Oregon's Conservation ethic unique. This will include celebrating accomplishments and saying "Thank You" to all Oregonian's that support this work.

Objectives

- In partnership with Oregon Lottery, the Conservation Partnership, and other conservation partners, develop tools and resources for local stakeholders to help them highlight conservation actions and the people and places impacted by those actions.
- Develop and share consistent messages across all OWEB's partners and stakeholders regarding the importance of watersheds to the health and vitality of all Oregonians.
- Build local capacity to tell stories, train, educate local communicators to tell the story.

Activities

Short Term (1-3 years):

- Coordinate with Lottery, SWCDs, watershed councils and land trusts on 20th Anniversary Campaign, including training for local organizations to help tell the story.

Medium-Long Term (3-6 years):

- Develop a continuous feed of stories (people and actions) to provide for Lottery to highlight ongoing conservation actions.

Outcomes

- Successes are celebrated at the local and state level through use of appropriate tools.
- More Oregonians are aware of the impacts of their investment in their watershed; more Oregonians understand why healthy watersheds matter to their family and community; more Oregonians understand their role in keeping their watershed healthy.
- Local partners are trained and have access to media resources, either through shared services or increased local capacity.

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Priority 1 - Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds

Strategy 1.2: Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches ⁽²⁾

Intent

New, non-traditional partners (corporations, recreation and healthcare industries, etc.) can help improve watershed health. This takes new and different approaches to reach out to partners and engage them in ways that benefit their organization. Outreach is one critical component of establishing and maintaining partnerships. Strong and diverse partnerships include the meaningful involvement of local, regional, and statewide organizations, public and private investors, government partners, and experts from across Oregon. By understanding the needs of the watershed and community, OWEB is uniquely positioned to help to connect resources with communities. Collaboration allows the opportunity for cross-pollination of ideas, cross-boundary work, adaptive learning, and heightened fidelity to science. OWEB will encourage partners to develop a common vision and objectives to improve their watershed.

Objectives

- Identify potential non-traditional partners.
- Develop outreach and engagement strategies to increase engagement with non-traditional partners
- Support stakeholders as they work to engage more diverse partners

Activities

Medium Term (3-6 years)

- Identify and learn from our stakeholders who are already engaging with non-traditional partners.
- Identify the needs, opportunities, and gaps that non-traditional partners can fill.
- Understand where OWEB's mission aligns with, or at a minimum does not conflict, with non-traditional partners' missions.
- Work with the conservation partnership to engage with non-traditional partners toward a common goal, including organizations that may have different, but overlapping missions.

Outcomes

- Non-traditional partners are involved and engaged in strategic watershed approaches.

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

Strategy 2.1: Listen, learn and gather information about diverse populations ⁽¹⁾

Intent

OWEB's board and staff will engage with partners and grantees to develop models and approaches that actively involve all Oregonians, particularly the historically marginalized, to improve the health of our watersheds. OWEB will take the time to listen to and learn from our partners, stakeholders, and others working with the broad diversity of Oregonians.

Objectives

- Engage with current and potential future applicants from a diversity of backgrounds to determine the accessibility of our grant programs and if we are meeting their needs.
- Listen to stakeholders about barriers/concerns related to program types and accessibility.
- Increase understanding among staff, board, and stakeholders what the work entails, that it is ongoing and long-term.
- Increase understanding of current and potential partners who can help OWEB increase diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).
- Create a plan to adapt services to accommodate gaps and barriers where possible.

Activities

Short Term (1-3 years):

- With partners, survey our grantees to learn about the demographics of their stakeholders.
- Meet with other state and federal partners who are already doing DEI work to learn, understand available resources and find ways to partner.
- Hold trainings for staff and board regarding both DEI and the state's unique relationship with tribes.

Outcomes

- OWEB staff and board share a common understanding of what is meant by diversity, equity and inclusion as it relates to OWEB's business practices.
- OWEB staff and board develop awareness of how social, economic, and cultural differences impact us internally and externally.
- OWEB staff and board share a common understanding of OWEB's unique relationship with tribes.

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

Strategy 2.2: Create new opportunities to expand who is at the table ⁽²⁾

Intent

OWEB's board and staff will engage with partners and grantees to develop models and approaches that actively involve all Oregonians in improving the health of our watersheds.

Objectives

- In coordination with partnership develop strategies to help stakeholders recruit and engage under-represented communities based on training and feedback through Strategy 1.
- Seek new partnerships to recruit high-quality, diverse board and staff.
- Implement a continuous feedback loop – evaluate our strategies again after we listen and learn.

Activities

Medium term (3-6 years):

- Following implementation of Strategy 2.1, develop actions and workplan to expand the diversity, equity and inclusion through OWEB's programs, staff, and board.
- Build diversity, equity, and inclusion conversations and training in to staff and board onboarding processes.

Outcomes

- Stakeholders have access to the tools and resources to recruit and retain a greater diversity of staff, board members, and volunteers.
- Increased engagement of under-represented communities in OWEB grant programs and programs of our stakeholders.

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

Strategy 2.3: Develop funding strategies with a lens toward diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) ⁽³⁾

Intent

OWEB's board and staff will engage with partners and grantees to develop models and approaches that actively involve all Oregonians in improving the health of our watersheds. Through this process OWEB will take the time to listen to and learn from our partners, stakeholders, and others working with the broad diversity of Oregonians.

Objectives

- Develop funding models to represent DEI principles.
- Engage under-represented communities as funding recipients.
- Mobilize under-represented communities as partners in watershed conservation efforts.

Activities

Medium Term (3-6 years)

- Activities will be built out after OWEB's initial listening and learning in years 1-3 of the strategic plan.

Outcomes

- Diversity, equity, and inclusion are incorporated into OWEB grant programs, as appropriate.
- Partnership with other state agencies and other funders to consider opportunities to fund natural resource projects with a DEI lens.

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Priority 3 - Community capacity and strategic partnerships support resilience in watersheds

Strategy 3.1: Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB's past capacity funding ⁽¹⁾

Intent

By evaluating one of OWEB's longest running programs and developing lessons learned we are demonstrating our commitment to meaningful monitoring and evaluation of our programs. We are encouraging staff and stakeholders to ask questions as they think about our practices. When we are curious, we are more apt to be responsive and flexible, adapting to the opportunities and challenges around us. We will seek to listen, learn, and think about cooperative conservation in new ways and through fresh perspectives.

Objectives

- Evaluate existing SWCD and watershed council investments in capacity.
- Compile information to design strategies that improve capacity programs and build on lessons learned.
- Establish process to monitor, evaluate, and develop opportunities to improve investments in capacity to meet community needs.

Activities

Short Term (1-3 years):

- Talk to other funders to learn how they invest in organizational capacity.
- With an external expert advisory team and steering committee, complete a qualitative and quantitative evaluation of past council and SWCD capacity investments.
 - Quantitative: Understand what our capacity dollars are already funding and the local accomplishments.
 - Qualitative: Interview current and previous SWCD/WC staff and board members.

Medium Term (3-6 years):

- Identify lessons learned. Share with partners (funders, state and federal agencies).
- Use lessons learned to continue to adjust capacity funding going forward.

Outcomes

- New mechanisms for watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts to report on outcomes of capacity funding.
- OWEB can clearly tell the story of the value of capacity funds.
- Funders are aware of the importance of funding capacity.
- Data exists to better understand the impacts of OWEB's capacity investments

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Priority 3 - Community capacity and strategic partnerships support resilience in watersheds

Strategy 3.2: Support best approaches to build organizational, community and partnership capacity ⁽¹⁾

Intent

The Oregon way is unique. In Oregon, no individual landowner or community needs to grapple with watershed challenges alone. Cooperative conservation is built from broad, diverse partnerships that collaborate to develop and implement enduring watershed solutions. We seek to evaluate and learn to continue providing Operating Capacity funds for local organizations to advance conservation missions. We understand that capacity funding enables local partners to engage their communities in cooperative conservation while benefiting Oregon's diverse economies.

Objectives

- Understand the current state of capacity investments, including opportunities and gaps.
- Understand the connection between capacity investments and conservation actions.
- Understand ingredients of successful partnerships and develop tools for partnership self-evaluation.
- Provide a range of resources including funding, technical tools, and learning opportunities that serve the needs of existing, new and emerging partnerships, and local capacity.

Activities

Short term (2-3 years):

- Review other capacity funding models, including diverse, non-traditional approaches.
- Explore and share information and best practices on high-performing partnerships.
- Explore geographic/regional capacity funding to fill core capacity functions, incorporating results from the retrospective evaluation.
- Provide funding and support for regional shared services

Medium Term (3-6 years):

- Considering the life cycle of a partnership, community opportunities and gaps, identify resources needed to improve stability for organizations, partnerships, and the restoration community.
- Based on research, implement a pilot to test new ways for supporting organizational, community and/or partnership capacity.
- Use results of research to evaluate OWEB's spending plan and fund allocation for Operating Capacity.
- Assess needs for providing information to help foster a statewide network of high-performing partners.

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Long Term (6-10 years):

- Review results of pilot and make any adjustments to OWEB's Operating Capacity funding.

Outcomes

- A suite of alternative options to invest in capacity to support conservation outcomes.
- Help for local groups to define their restoration 'community' for purposes of partnership/community capacity investments.
- Established grant avenues for capacity and partnership funding (small, medium, large; short and long term).

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Priority 3 - Community capacity and strategic partnerships support resilience in watersheds

Strategy 3.3: Accelerate state/federal agency participation in partnerships ⁽¹⁾

Intent

Natural resource agencies have complementary missions in support of watershed health. OWEB can support existing and new models that increase engagement of state/federal agencies in strategic partnerships. Strong and diverse partnerships include the meaningful involvement of local, regional, and statewide organizations, public and private investors, government partners and experts from across Oregon. By understanding the needs of the watershed and community, OWEB is uniquely positioned to help to connect resources with communities. Collaboration allows the opportunity for cross-pollination of ideas, cross-boundary work, adaptive learning, and heightened fidelity to science.

Objectives

- Develop approaches to help local organizations improve partnerships with state/federal agencies.
- Increase engagement of and coordination among state/federal agencies.
- Develop new models of efficient and effective coordination that make restoration easier.

Activities

Short term (1-3 years)

- Develop talking points for federal and state agency OWEB board members describing the importance of agency collaboration.
- Work with federal and state agency OWEB board members to continue to elevate the need for conservation and restoration coordination among agencies.
- Continue to support existing effective federal/state agency partnerships, including providing updates at Board meetings and Natural Resources Cabinet.

Outcomes

- A set of streamlined cross-agency processes to more effectively implement restoration projects.
- Better prioritized funding requests with a higher likelihood of success.
- Better coordinated and transparent cross-agency efforts.

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

Strategy 4.1: Increase coordination of public restoration investments and develop funding vision⁽¹⁾

Intent

There are a number of public agencies who provide funding related to watershed health, water quality and habitat. OWEB can support the development of statewide coordination of investments including grants, mitigation, and other funding mechanisms. Strong and diverse partnerships include the meaningful involvement of local, regional, and statewide organizations, public and private investors, government partners and experts from across Oregon. By understanding the needs of the watershed and community, OWEB is uniquely positioned to help to connect resources with communities.

Objectives

- Support development of a state investment vision to create clarity from the highest levels of the executive branch to local landowners.
- Better coordinate mitigation and restoration funding to leverage conservation efforts.
- Evaluate OWEB's role in, and capacity to, coordinate funding across agencies.
- Develop cross-agency approaches to coordination investments at a state level.

Activities

Short Term (1-3 years)

- Map the landscape of natural resource funding around the state and identify areas for potential alignment.
- Update OWEB mitigation policy to increase clarity around OWEB investments and how they work with mitigation funding.

Medium Term (3-6 years)

- Research development of a state agency "granting cabinet".
- Identify opportunities to leverage mitigation and restoration.
- Use granting cabinet to develop state investment vision.
- Identify innovative public agency investment strategies to better align with other funders.

Outcomes

- More effective and efficient use of public dollars.
- Shared vision across agencies about strategic investment opportunities.
- Clear understanding of OWEB's role in coordinating funding and improved capacity to implement that role.

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

Strategy 4.2: Align common investment areas with private foundations ⁽²⁾

Intent

Foundations may or may not know about the important restoration work occurring in Oregon. While restoration may not be a priority for foundations, the additional benefits of restoration projects may be. Jobs, community capacity, health, and community resiliency are just a few additional benefits that come from restoration projects, which may be of interest to private foundations. Strong and diverse partnerships include the meaningful involvement of local, regional, and statewide organizations, public and private investors, government partners and experts from across Oregon. By understanding the needs of the watershed and community, OWEB is uniquely positioned to help to connect resources with communities.

Objectives

- Develop messaging around the multiple benefits of restoration investments.
- Work with other funders to better reflect environmental, community and economic values in granting language.
- Work with foundations to invest in strategic partnerships around conservation and restoration.
- Reduce the risk of projects from the funder's perspective to encourage project investment.
- Seek ways to increase connections with tribal foundations.

Activities

Short –Term (1-3 years):

- Map the landscape of natural resource funding around the state and identify areas for potential alignment.
- Utilize existing convenings to highlight OWEB successes and open a dialogue with funders about co-investment.

Medium Term (3-6 years):

- Use existing networks to meet with funders as the opportunities arise.
- Explore opportunities for expanding conversations with foundations.
- Share OWEB's innovations in supporting partnerships with other funders.
- Identify new and innovative foundation investment strategies to better align with other funders.

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Outcomes

- Foundations are informed about the important restoration work occurring in Oregon and understand the additional community benefits of restoration projects.
- Foundations consider restoration investments when they are developing their investment portfolios.
- Foundations know OWEB, how the agency's investments work, and how they can partner if interested.
- Foundations increase their investment in restoration.

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

Strategy 4.3: Explore creative funding opportunities and partnerships with the private sector ⁽²⁾

Intent

Corporations in Oregon have a vested interest in clean water and healthy watersheds. OWEB will work with partners to identify ways to help corporations invest strategically in the health of their local watershed. Strong and diverse partnerships include the meaningful involvement of local, regional, and statewide organizations, public and private investors, government partners and experts from across Oregon. By understanding the needs of the watershed and community, OWEB is uniquely positioned to help to connect resources with communities.

Objectives

- Identify companies who have an inherent interest in natural resources, water, and watersheds.
- Work with companies to identify sponsorship models that work for them.
- Work with statewide conservation organizations to expand grantee capability to seek corporation investments in local projects.
- Reduce the risk of projects from the funder's perspective to encourage project investment.

Activities

Short-term (1-3 years):

- Map the landscape of natural resource funding around the state and identify areas for potential alignment.

Medium term (3-6 years)

- Partner with foundations to develop messages around the economic, environmental, and community values of conservation investments for corporations.

Long term (6-10 years)

- Identify new and innovative corporate investment strategies to better align with other funders.

Outcomes

- Corporations are informed about the important restoration work occurring in Oregon and understand the additional community benefits of restoration projects.
- Corporations consider restoration investments in their investment portfolios.
- Corporations know OWEB, how the agency's investments work, and how they can partner.
- Corporations increase their investment in restoration.

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

Strategy 4.4: Design strategies for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources ⁽¹⁾

Intent

Oregon needs to scale up its investment to address increasingly complex conservation and restoration needs. This will require creative thinking around funding opportunities that match the size and scale of Oregon's vision for healthy watersheds. It is likely the investment need will be far beyond OWEB and its current partners' ability to fund with existing dollars. Strong and diverse partnerships include the meaningful involvement of local, regional, and statewide organizations, public and private investors, government partners and experts from across Oregon. By understanding the needs of the watershed and community, OWEB is uniquely positioned to help to connect resources with communities.

Objectives

- Work with partners to identify areas ripe for large-scale investments.
- Clearly identify the size of the challenge and the time scale to address it with or without additional funding.
- Develop analysis approaches to prioritize investment needs at the regional and state scale.

Activities

Short Term (1-3 years)

- Identify areas of alignment between state climate change legislation and initiatives and OWEB funding.
- Partner to develop inventory, assessment, and prioritization approaches to identify water and other associated infrastructure needs.

Medium-Long Term (3-10 years)

- Identify additional areas of alignment for new and creative investment.

Outcomes

- Coordinated outreach strategy for state agencies, foundations, and corporations.
- Increase in new and diverse funding sources.
- Increase in creative funding mechanisms and strategies.

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

Strategy 5.1: Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program ⁽¹⁾

Intent

Working with partners and the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission, finalize rules, solicit for applications, and determine appropriate funding sources for working lands easements, management plans, and succession planning for agricultural landowners. Full implementation is funding-dependent. Oregon's watersheds are intertwined with its people – the land is a part of our culture, our food and water, our work and our recreation. As a result, the well-being of all Oregonians depends on the health of our watersheds. Current and future generations need access to whole and healthy watersheds. People and communities are an integral part of their watershed, just like fish and wildlife. A community's economic and social health comes from the health of the lands that surround them and the ability to draw enjoyment from clean water, open spaces, and natural habitats.

Objectives

- Establish a fully functioning Agricultural Heritage Commission.
- Adopt rules governing grant programs for succession planning, covenants, easements, and technical assistance.
- Determine the funding needs for working lands grant program.

Activities

Short Term (1-3 years)

- Provide leadership for the Agricultural Heritage Commission.
- Facilitate the Commission's development of program rules.
- Implement surveys and otherwise solicit the level of interest in the granting programs under the Commission's purview to determine annual funding needs.

Outcomes

- The eligibility, types of offerings, evaluation criteria, and funding procedures for OAHC programs will be clearly articulated in program rules and guidance.
- The need for OAHC granting programs will be quantified.

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

Strategy 5.2: Strengthen engagement with a broad base of working landowners ⁽¹⁾

Intent

The agency will start by learning from others with more experience and knowledge. This includes a commitment to continuous learning by understanding who our current grantees, partners and stakeholders are and clearly identifying the gaps in these areas and how they are represented. This is important to fully incorporate strong working lands approaches into OWEB's mission. Oregon's natural resource industries – agriculture, forestry, fishing, recreation – are dependent on healthy watersheds to be sustainable. The work of restoring natural areas creates jobs in communities, and the impact of a healthy watershed extends to all segments of Oregon's economy and is essential for the economic vitality of the State. When communities understand the link between healthy watersheds and a strong economy, they are more likely to invest in improving both.

Objectives

- Map the working lands community, landowner barriers and motivations.
- Develop a pathway to work with partners to increase working lands projects, and support technical assistance for owners and managers of working lands.
- Evaluate opportunities for incentives to increase landowner participation.

Activities

Short-term (1-3 years)

- Invest with grantees and working lands advocates to survey landowners to identify motivation and barriers to implementing conservation.
- Develop and design training and information sharing approaches.

Medium Term (3-6 years)

- Work with partners to develop a pathway to increase working lands projects.
- Work with partners to identify and support technical assistance to work with owners and managers of working lands.

Outcomes

- Better understanding of state of conservation participation, barriers and incentives.
- Identification of opportunities to increase outreach and technical assistance to landowners and partners.
- Expanded relationships with agriculture and forestry associations.
- A pathway to understand the type of landowner our grantees are working with and who is missing.

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

Strategy 5.3: Enhance the work of partners to increase working lands projects on farm, ranch and forestlands ⁽²⁾

Intent

There are many areas in the state where working lands strategies and habitat/water quality priorities intersect. A number of statewide agencies and organizations have strong connections with farmers, ranchers and forest land owners. OWEB will partner with those organizations (formally and informally) to increase landowner involvement in conservation – whether through a program or on their own. OWEB can continue to work with partners at the state and local level to identify strategic areas where the agency can focus its investments on that intersection, highlighting the compatibility of working lands conservation strategies.

Objectives

- Engage multi-agency resources to help target and develop assistance for landowners.
- Understand how Oregon's land use program benefits working lands and capitalize on those opportunities.
- Increase understanding of who is implementing successful working land approaches and how OWEB can partner with them.
- Create opportunities to increase incentives for landowner participation in working lands conservation based on learning from strategy 5.2.

Activities

Medium Term (3-6 years)

- Provide training to review teams about the value of working lands for conservation.
- Based on lessons learned from strategy 5.2, identify funding and funding gaps for working lands conservation projects.
- Convene resource specialists to help identify species, habitat and water quality needs/opportunities and where they intersect with working lands. Utilize this information to inform review teams about opportunities to invest in projects that achieve both conservation and working lands benefits.
- Establish and facilitate a state technical group to identify and recommend approaches to invest in technical support tools for local partners.

Outcomes

- Expanded working lands partnerships that improve habitat and water quality.
- Increased conservation awareness amongst owners and managers of working lands.
- Increased working lands conservation projects on farm, ranch, and forest lands.
- Expanded funding opportunities for working lands conservation.

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

Strategy 5.4: Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands ⁽²⁾

Intent

While local organizations are very effective at working with farm, ranch and forest landowners, there are some landowners/managers who have not yet been engaged in conservation for a variety of reasons. OWEB can coordinate with other partners to help local organizations effectively engage new landowners in their community.

Objectives

- Increase available technical resources for landowners and managers of working lands.
- Determine funding mechanisms for long-term stewardship of working lands.
- Support outreach to better meet the needs of changing demographics in rural Oregon who own or manage working lands.

Activities

Medium term (3-6 years)

- Facilitate assessment of technical assistance needs.
- Increase investment in technical assistance to grantees and working lands advocates.
- Design monitoring and evaluation strategies for working lands restoration.

Long term (6-10 years)

- Develop technical assessment materials to meet the needs of specific audiences.

Outcomes

- Comprehensive assortment of technical assistance strategies based on the audience.
- Fully functioning working landscapes remain resilient into the future.
- Generations of landowners will continue to integrate conservation on their working lands while maintaining economic sustainability.

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

Strategy 5.5: Develop engagement strategies for owners and managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations ⁽³⁾

Intent

Landowner engagement will be an important component to increase working lands projects to build understanding and support for the work as well as identify opportunities to work with interested land owners.

Objectives

- Engage community leaders to help build support and understanding for working lands conservation.
- Expand awareness or understanding of working lands conservation programs to owners, managers of working lands not currently engaged.
- Broadly communicate economic and conservation values of working lands conservation, emphasizing the balance of habitat, water quality, and landowner needs.
- Build and encourage a culture of conservation on working lands.
- Ensure consistent working lands conservation opportunities across the state.

Activities

- Additional activities will be developed based on lessons learned from strategy 5.2.

Outcomes

- Increased engagement of owners and managers of working lands conservation projects.
- Landowner engagement strategies for conservation practitioners including OWEB grantees.
- Examples of successful working lands conservation projects.

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(2) = This strategy will come over the next few years. It may include only medium/long term actions.

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Priority 6 - Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

Strategy 6.1: Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts ⁽¹⁾

Intent

Healthy, resilient watersheds provide clean water and a vibrant place to live for people, fish and wildlife, now and in the future. OWEB's investments will result in measurable improvements that lead to healthier streams and healthier upland habitat, while ensuring that the work of our grantees is resilient to long-term impacts to the environment. OWEB seeks to ensure all communities empower diverse stakeholders to design, implement, and evaluate collaborative conservation actions. Engaged community members are better able to adapt to new ideas, address new challenges and design new approaches to improve their watershed. When landowners, land managers and local citizens are actively involved in shared learning and leadership within local organizations, the capacity of communities to improve the health of their watersheds is expanded.

Objectives

- Work with partners to tell the story of watershed work, progress, and impact.
- Improve understanding and awareness about how restoration benefits people.
- Identify clear and understandable restoration outcomes, including measures of both ecological and social/economic outcomes that describe the relevance of OWEB's investments to the public.

Activities

Short term (1-3 years):

- Assess what information is readily available for tracking restoration results, outcomes, and impact and improve the quality and relevance of data collected as appropriate.
- Work with grantees and other local partners to identify the best ways to communicate outcomes.
- Build on existing processes for 'telling the story' to effectively interpret scientific information and communicate results in ways that are meaningful to diverse audiences.

Medium-Long Term (3-10 years):

- Link refinements to OWEB's monitoring grant-making to OWEB's approach to 'telling the story of restoration' and adaptively manage this work.
- Continue to explore new and diverse ways to use online and social media.
- Continue to build on successful awareness and communication efforts, expanding OWEB's ability to reach new or under-represented sectors or demographic groups.

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Outcomes

- Improved understanding and awareness about the impacts of restoration and what the impacts mean.
- Increased engagement and support of restoration and conservation activities.
- A dedicated process for continually improving how restoration outcomes are defined and described.

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Priority 6 - Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

Strategy 6.2: Invest in monitoring over the long term ⁽²⁾

Intent

For effectiveness monitoring to be successful there needs to be long term sustained effort – or, at the very least, an ability to sample or measure indicators at appropriate time scales. OWEB seeks to ensure all communities empower diverse stakeholders to design, implement, and evaluate collaborative conservation actions. Engaged community members are better able to adapt to new ideas, address new challenges and design new approaches to improve their watershed. When landowners, land managers and local citizens are actively involved in shared learning and leadership within local organizations, the capacity of communities to improve the health of their watersheds is expanded.

Objectives

- Help grantees develop realistic approaches for what to monitor, purpose, and timeframe.
- Explore coordinated monitoring approaches that provide monitoring capacity and technical support at appropriate and realistic scales of both geography and time.
- Consider how theory of change approaches can inform both restoration planning and strategies to track the effectiveness of restoration over the long term.
- Develop the ability to communicate the structure of a monitoring framework over the long term and how it is relevant to restoration practitioners, managers and funders who are interested in better understanding status and trends and the effectiveness of restoration.

Activities

Short-Medium term (2-4 years):

- Assess existing coordinated monitoring efforts and/or teams to understand how they have functioned.
- Evaluate past OWEB investments in paired restoration and large-scale monitoring, FIP monitoring, and long standing monitoring projects/programs.

Long Term (5-10 years):

- Develop recommendations for the board about long-term investments in monitoring, and criteria for applicants to address the board priorities for long-term investments in monitoring.

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Outcomes

- Decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results.
- Evaluation of impact, not just effort, is practiced broadly.
- Impact on ecological, economic and social factors are considered.
- Local organizations integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning.
- Improved restoration and monitoring actions on the ground to meet local and state needs.

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Priority 6 - Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

Strategy 6.3: Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring ⁽¹⁾

Intent

Develop monitoring and adaptive management guidance to provide technical support.

Objectives

- Understand specific barriers and challenges to implementing successful monitoring efforts.
- Improve monitoring grant applications to meet local and state needs.
- Distill technical monitoring data into useable information for adaptive management.

Activities

Short-Medium Term (1-5 years):

- Prioritize findings of OWEB's monitoring application guidance development process, develop a work plan for refining the agency's monitoring grant-making, and begin implementation of the plan. Example activities include:
 - Compiling and communicating lessons learned from past monitoring investments.
 - Developing guidance documents for restoration and monitoring practitioners.

Outcomes

- Local organizations integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning.
- Readily available information to wide audiences to incorporate into adaptive management and strategic planning at the local level.
- Improved restoration and monitoring actions on the ground to meet local and state needs.

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Priority 6 - Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

Strategy 6.4: Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners ⁽³⁾

Intent

Develop communication strategies to share results, incorporate scientific and technical information, including climate science information into restoration planning, and support adaptive management by helping bridge the gap between research/monitoring and on-the-ground work.

Objectives

- Develop communication strategies to share results, incorporate information into restoration planning, and support adaptive management, helping to bridge the gap between research/monitoring and on-the-ground work.
- Accelerate science/practitioner communication.
- Explore the value of the regional forums and/or networks to coordinate monitoring and encourage efficient and effective use of available resources for monitoring.
- Make scientific data and tools available to restoration practitioners.

Activities

Medium-Term (3-5 years):

- Explore and support existing information-sharing venues to share results of research and monitoring, including existing workshops, symposia, regional monitoring gatherings, and peer exchanges.
- Share information about resources and tools available through existing regional networks.
- Continue to coordinate with other states on opportunities for action-specific monitoring partnerships.

Long-Term (5-10 years):

- Explore the value of helping to organize informal networks that include scientists/researchers, technical/monitoring experts, and restoration practitioners.

Outcomes

- Increased decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results.
- Increased ability to evaluate social change that leads to ecological outcomes.
- More evaluation of impact, not just effort, broadly practiced.
- Improved restoration and monitoring actions on the ground to meet local and state needs.
- Network of experts to help grantees develop and implement successful monitoring projects.

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Priority 6 - Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

Strategy 6.5: Define monitoring priorities ⁽³⁾

Intent

Assess what OWEB wants to achieve through monitoring and then create the resources and tools necessary. Define appropriate monitoring scopes or scales. Consider the operational contexts to determine what is appropriate for any given partnership or organization.

Objectives

- Define appropriate scopes and/or scales for monitoring.
- Integrate monitoring with other OWEB investments to ensure ecological outcomes can be quantified.
- Promote monitoring as a critical component of restoration work and identify other funding partners for this work.

Activities

Medium-Term (3-5 years):

- Assess and define what OWEB wants to achieve through monitoring.
- Review the findings from other strategies under the Coordinated Monitoring priority.

Long-Term (5-10 years):

- Draft monitoring priorities for consideration by the full board
- Use funding conversations with foundations and state agencies under Priority 4 to explore areas of common interest in funding monitoring, including assessment of other interested and willing funders.

Outcomes

- Priorities proactively established to plan for adequate monitoring resources that describe our restoration investment outcomes.
- Board adopts Monitoring Priorities following comprehensive process that solicits input and ideas from monitoring partners.
- Limited monitoring resources provide return on investment for priority needs.
- Monitoring practitioners focus efforts on priority monitoring needs.

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Priority 6 - Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

Strategy 6.6: Develop and promote a monitoring framework ⁽³⁾

Intent

Encourage state and federal agency partners to develop consistent approaches, clear goals, shared scope and scale for their watershed monitoring.

Objectives

- Partner with state and federal agency partners to develop consistent approaches, clear goals, shared scope, and scale for monitoring watershed restoration outcomes and impacts.
- Partner with state agencies to increase interagency collaboration and develop a common vision for monitoring at a larger scale.
- Complement larger-scale monitoring planning with embedded approaches to help local partners identify lessons learned at a local scale and with relevance to localized decision-making.
- Strengthen integration of data collection across state and federal agencies.

Activities

Medium-Term (3-5 years):

- Continue implementation of current monitoring efforts and evaluate the use of approaches that bridge larger-to-smaller scales.
- Evaluate existing monitoring strategies and consider their appropriateness as a foundation for developing a monitoring framework.
- Share information with restoration and monitoring practitioners about existing and emerging data integration and visualization tools.

Long-Term (5-10 years):

- Develop tools and resources to encourage use of a consistent monitoring framework, methodologies, and tools by integrating these into OWEB's grant-making processes.
- Continue to support use and build-out of existing and emerging tools for: integrating data collection efforts; visualizing monitoring results at larger scales; and evaluating potential for more efficient monitoring on the ground.

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Outcomes

- Decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results.
- Limited monitoring resources are focused on appropriate, high-quality, prioritized monitoring being conducted by state agencies, local groups, and federal agencies conducting monitoring.
- Monitoring results that can be visualized across time and space, to allow for use and application at local, watershed and regional scales.

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

Strategy 7.1: Invest in landscape restoration over the long term. ⁽²⁾

Intent

Expand funding opportunities for large-scale conservation efforts over multiple years, sharing risk amongst diverse partners.

Objectives

- Provide funding for landscape scale restoration over the long term
- Provide funding to support partnerships implementing landscape-scale restoration or identify other sources of capacity funding for partnerships
- Share results of long-term efforts and lessons learned with the broader conservation community
- Invest in capacity to develop projects that can be successfully implemented at the landscape scale.

Activities

Short term (1-3 years)

- Continue to fund long-term activities that lead to landscape scale restoration.
- Develop evaluation processes for individual restoration grants that reward projects that may entail risk, but offer big potential upsides.

Medium term (3-6 years)

- Evaluate if other OWEB grant programs may be necessary to successfully invest in landscape scale restoration.

Outcomes

- OWEB's grant portfolio will move towards landscape scale restoration that will likely involve effective partnerships around the state. At this scale of restoration, over the long term, ecological outcomes may be reached.
- OWEB will work with partners to share results of landscape scale restoration with broader conservation community.

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

Strategy 7.2: Develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economics ⁽³⁾

Intent

Develop appropriate investment approaches that recognize the dual conservation and economic drivers of watershed actions.

Objectives

- Identify new economic approaches that incentivize conservation.
- Clearly communicate to the public the economic benefits of restoration, including the ecological benefits realized from well-managed working lands.

Activities

Medium to long-term (4-10 years)

- Research cutting edge science that involves working lands and conservation outcomes.
- Identify economic impacts of healthy fish runs, water quality, and healthy watersheds.
- Develop resources that can help our partners in conservation communicate the economic benefits of restoration.

Outcomes

- OWEB's investment approaches recognize the dual conservation and economic drivers and benefits of watershed actions, where appropriate.
- Across the state, local partners have the resources necessary to better facilitate why and where restoration opportunities exist on working lands.
- Increased and expanded understanding that restoration approaches can be mutually beneficial for working lands and watershed health.

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

Strategy 7.3: Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB's mission ⁽¹⁾

Intent

We will stimulate innovations and experimentations to learn from new forms of intervention and to adopt promising new practices throughout the conservation system. Once discoveries are made, we will provide insights from the learning to the conservation community for adoption and further experimentation.

Objectives

- Deliberately and nimbly invest in both programs/projects that are traditional (with predictable outcomes) and innovative (where more risk exists), sharing risk amongst diverse partners.
- Convene partners to develop, then provide incentives for innovative ideas.
- Allocate funding specifically for innovation.
- Formally recognize that lessons learned are a part of a project's success.

Activities

Short term (1-3 years)

- Capture lessons learned from restoration and partnership investments and share with restoration practitioners to identify areas for innovation and increased risk-taking.
- Develop approaches that allow grantees the space to clearly articulate risks and benefits of new and innovative approaches.

Medium term (3-6 years)

- Develop board and staff capacity to evaluate risk and to be able to weigh risk of innovation against proposed benefits.

Outcomes

- A Culture of Learning: Conservation communities value an experimental approach to learning and innovation.
- A Culture of Potential: Conservation communities become comfortable with properties and projects that show potential (not just work based on demonstrated past performance).
- Intelligent Investments: OWEB becomes better able to evaluate risk and encourage a culture of innovation.

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April 24-25, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update P-1: Lower Columbia River Watershed Council

This report provides the board an update on the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council's progress towards meeting OWEB's funding requirements associated with the 2017-2019 Council Capacity grant award.

Background

At its July 2017 meeting, the board discussed and awarded Council Capacity grants for the 2017-2019 biennium. After deliberation, the board elected to fund the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council at a reduced level (\$47,347.50) for a period of one year. A second year of funding is contingent upon the Council demonstrating that it has met the merit criteria.

Grant Agreement Special Conditions

The Council's grant agreement includes a list of special conditions that the Council must fulfill during the grant period. Quarterly progress reports are required documenting the Council's work on each of the five merit criteria.

Evaluation Process

The Council's progress toward meeting the merit criteria will be evaluated through:

- 1) Review of the quarterly progress reports (Attachment A);
- 2) Attendance at Council meetings;
- 3) Meetings with Council staff and board members; and
- 4) Council staff and board member participation in an interview and review process.

Progress to date

The Council has been meeting monthly, with meeting notices and minutes emailed OWEB staff. Since the January 2018 update to the board, the council has achieved the following:

- 1) Held council board officer elections and elected a new board chair and vice chair;
- 2) Updated its Memorandum of Understanding with the Columbia SWCD; and
- 3) Met OWEB's conditions of first payment and submitted its first payment request.

Next Steps

The Council is required to submit its council capacity grant work plan update by April 30, 2018. OWEB staff, along with the council capacity review team, will meet with the Council on May 10, 2018, to complete the interview and review process. OWEB staff will meet with the newly formed board Operating Capacity Subcommittee before the end of May to discuss the results of the review process. OWEB staff will present the results of the evaluation process and the board will make a decision on the second year for capacity funding at the June 2018 board meeting.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov or 503-986-0046.

Attachments

- A. Progress Report

Lower Columbia Watershed Council
Progress Report #2 to OWEB for Meeting Merit Criteria – April 3, 2018
(OWEB requirements in bold)

Merit Criteria #1: Effective governance

- **Actions the council is taking to demonstrate implementation of council governance procedures separate and distinct from the district. These must include, but are not limited to 1) documented review and update of the council's board officer position descriptions; 2) Documentation that the council is using a variety of methods to advertise and invite the public to council meetings; 3) Completion and review at a council meeting the council's self-assessment**

The Lower Columbia Watershed Council, through its Fiscal Sponsor, the Columbia SWCD, contracted with the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (Shawn Morford) in October 2017 to help guide the council in meeting the merit criteria requirements. Shawn has attended monthly council meetings since October as well as numerous meetings and phone calls with a small task force of council members (called the "Roll up the Sleeves Team" or RUST for short) assigned to focus on accomplishing the tasks outlined in the OWEB agreement as well as the SWCD District Manager.

The council has continued to follow Shawn's written guide, "A Road Map to OWEB Merit Criteria" that outlines specific actions and timelines for meeting the criteria. This document was attached to the first progress report.

The results have been very encouraging with several major developments have occurred since the last progress report:

1) Negotiation and signature of a new Fiscal Sponsorship and Employment Agreement. A new agreement between Columbia SWCD and the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council was signed by both board chairs on February 29 and March 1 (attached) after review and approval at SWCD and LCRWC meetings in February. The negotiations and the resulting written agreement is a significant step in articulating the distinction between the SWCD and the Watershed Council and forging a clear and supportive relationship into the future. Among other specifications, the agreement spells out that:

While the SWCD ultimately maintains legal, supervisory, and financial responsibility for the council as its fiscal sponsor,

- *LCWC will sets its own priorities based on its own annual action plan and that the action plan will be based in part on community input obtained through outreach efforts and through council member input.*

- *The LCWC coordinator's position will be 100% devoted to watershed council activities and the coordinator's work plan will be directed by the council as long as the council is adhering to SWCD personnel and other policies affecting the coordinator. These could include joint projects with the SWCD (such as the current RCPP project and Westport Slough), but the roles and expectations of the LCWC coordinator on those projects will be negotiated and clarified as the funding proposals and work plans are being developed.*
- *The SWCD will prepare and submit to the LCWC at least quarterly financial documents that show the expenses and income specifically for the watershed council and these will be presented at council meetings. Time sheets will continue to be completed by the new coordinator that will show the work of the coordinator by activity which will be available for review by the LCWC Executive committee or council membership as requested.*
- *The coordinator hiring committee will be a joint committee involving both the SWCD and LCWC.*
- *Performance review of coordinator will also be conducted jointly.*
- *As the fiscal sponsor, the SWCD will submit grant proposals on behalf of the council but the council will lead the proposals and forward them to the SWCD for their approval and submittal. In each grant proposal for which the council will utilize the funds separate from the SWCD, the LCWC will be listed as the project lead.*
- *LCWC council will assign a liaison to the SWCD board who will attend SWCD meetings and report back to the watershed council on activities and relevant decisions of the SWCD.*

2. Board officer elections. The council appointed a nominating committee for the council's biennial officer election at its regular monthly meeting in January. Between the January and February council meetings, the nominating committee contacted all council members letting them know about the nomination process and seeking nominees. The nomination chair brought names of willing nominees to the February 13 meeting and Chair KC VanNatta asked for any additional nominations from the floor. The secret ballots were counted and a new President was named. The following individuals were elected/re-elected for a two-year term:

Ian Bledsoe, President (new)

Gary Soderstom , Vice President (re-elected)

Marilyn Van Natta, Secretary (re-elected)

The new President presided over his first full meeting in March. See attached minutes.

3. Board position descriptions. Shawn Morford worked with the officers to develop a draft set of board position descriptions that the council reviewed and approved at its February 13 meeting. The position descriptions were submitted to OWEB with the first funding request and are also attached.

4. Filling the council coordinator position. In response to the coordinator's resignation in November, the council appointed two council members to work with the SWCD on a hiring team to develop a position description, advertise the job, create a short list of candidates, conduct the interviews, and

make a selection. The position announcement opened February 5 and closed February 21 with interviews on March 14. The hiring team selected a two-person consulting team from Whiting Environmental, LLC (Allan Whiting) and West Coast Cronin Clan Co (Kevin Cronin) on a three-month contract beginning April 1 through June 30. The LCRWC/SWCD hiring team will recommend to extend the coordinator contract or to announce the position again after June 30 depending on direction the council chooses to go in their strategic planning and assuming the capacity grant funding is secured.

Allan Whiting - allanwhiting@gmail.com 503-789-9240

Kevin Cronin - kevinadamschronin@gmail.com 503-984-6489

The scope of work includes continuing to build existing capacity for LCRWC through the work with the council in development of a management structure with board members and local partners, the organization of emerging governance documentation, creation of an outreach strategy with watershed council members and key stakeholders, and the management of existing projects and the development of future projects and update of the action plan due April 30. Also among the deliverables is a five-year strategic plan to guide Council mission, vision, values, goals, objectives, and action planning.

The complete scope of work is attached.

Merit Criteria #2: Effective management

- **Actions the council is taking to demonstrate implementation of effective council management practices separate and distinct from the district. These must include, but are not limited to 1) Documentation, through council board meeting minutes, that the council coordinator is updating the council board, in writing, at each council meeting of the coordinator's activities and the board has the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on those activities 2) A description of the actions taken by the council to track the work of the council coordinator for the council separate and distinct from work performed for the district; 3) Documentation, through council board meeting minutes, that the council board is reviewing and approving council financial information at monthly council meetings.**

Shawn Morford and the RUST task force updated the council at each council meeting from November through March. At each meeting there was significant discussion about and work on the fiscal sponsorship agreement, coordinator search, board job descriptions, and board elections led by Shawn, the chair and the RUST task force with council members. The point of contact for the new coordinator consultant team as identified in their Scope of Work is the LCRWC President (chair), Ian Bledsoe and it is expected that Ian will meet frequently by phone and in person with the consulting team in delivery of their scope of work, which includes scoping of additional projects that will be unique to or led by the watershed council. Shawn Morford will also meet by phone and in person with the consulting team

during the transition to ensure consistency in the hand-off and to ensure that final OWEB requirements of the council are met.

Verbal and written financial reports outlining the council income and expenditures were provided to the council as a regular agenda item beginning at its March 2018 meeting and are expected to continue monthly under the new President and coordinator consultants.

Merit Criteria #3: Progress in planning

- **Actions the council is taking to demonstrate progress in planning separate and distinct from the district. These must include, but are not limited to 1) Documentation, through council board meeting minutes, that the council board reviewed and adopted the Council Capacity Work Plan update, due April 30, 2018; 2) A description of progress the council is making to engage stakeholders in planning and prioritizing the work of the council.**

The coordinator consulting team Scope of Work includes updating the Council Capacity work plan as a key deliverable (see attached under Task 1). They expect to provide a draft outline for the council to review and discuss at its April 10 meeting; however it is not likely that a final approval by the board will take place until its May 8 meeting. The work plan will be a part of the larger strategic plan that is also a key deliverable of the coordinator consultants.

The watershed council meetings continue to be announced in the following ways:

- The Council meetings are announced on the Outlook contact list and snail mail list comprised of Council members and people with an interest in the council.
- The meetings are announced in the OSU Extension newsletter, which is online and mailed. The LCWC monthly meeting has been announced every month in 2017 on the front page calendar. The newsletter has a ~1300 mailing list. For example, http://extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia/sites/default/files/country_living_december_2017.pdf
- Board Secretary Marilyn Van Natta sends meeting notices to the Clatskanie Chief, Chronicle, and Spotlight newspapers to ensure that they have information they need to announce each meeting in their papers prior to the meetings.
- The LCWC currently has a page on the SWCD website at <http://www.columbiaswcd.com/about/watershed-councils/lcrwc> , however the Council now has developed the structure for its own standalone website that is under construction (<https://www.lowercolumbiariver.org>). The new coordinator and the new outreach committee of the council will be tasked with populating this website and announcing the new site when it's ready for release.

Merit Criteria #4: Progress in on-the-ground restoration

- **Actions the council is taking to implement on-the-ground restoration work separate and distinct from the district.**

Sixty percent of the new Scope of Work (140 hours over next three months) for the coordinating consultants includes project work, including scoping and landowner engagement that is expected to lead to new projects, better management of existing projects, and new funding proposals. Specifically the tasks include:

- Evaluate existing project inventory to assess stage of development (i.e. conceptual, reconnaissance, feasibility).
- Update inventory through scoping of additional projects and provide summary profiles that include level of landowner engagement, initial budget, ecological benefit, and potential funding sources.
- In collaboration with fiscal sponsor, manage existing grant funded projects in close coordination with partners and stakeholders. Manage specific authorized projects with approved scope of work, budget, and schedule by Watershed Council.
- Attend project development meetings as necessary to scope project, prepare required permits, and respond to inquiries from stakeholders.
- Where appropriate link outreach plan concepts developed in task 1 tailored for each restoration project.
- Research potential grants and due dates to match opportunities identified above. This could include re-scoping previously developed proposals
- Participate with the Columbia SWCD on the public participation phase of the PL-566 Watershed plan process.

Merit Criteria #5: Progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes

- **Actions the council is taking to implement community engagement activities separate and distinct from the district.**

A strategic outreach plan is among the deliverables of the coordinating consultants. They are contracted to prepare an organizational engagement strategy with Watershed Council, key stakeholders, and others as assigned to raise public profile and provide progress reports at regular meetings. Kevin Cronin's expertise is community outreach and planning and he will work with the board on developing and delivering outreach activities. Other than public meeting announcements and a public comment period during each meeting, this merit criterion will be addressed by a new outreach subcommittee of the board that was discussed at the March 2018 council meeting. It's expected that the new subcommittee will begin the process of identifying community engagement activities for 2018 with Kevin. It is anticipated that most community engagement activities will take place during the

warm-weather season such as field tours or booths at the Columbia County Fair, but there could also be speakers at council meetings open to the public throughout the rest of the year as well.

April 24-25, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update P-2: FIP Gathering

This report provides the board an update on the FIP Gathering, held March 13-14, at Menucha Retreat Center.

Background

At the October 2017 meeting, the board awarded funds to the Bonneville Environmental Foundation to host a gathering of the Implementation and Development FIPs. The objectives for the gathering were to share lessons learned among the partners, offer training, and networking opportunities.

FIP Gathering

The 2018 FIP Gathering brought together 42 partners from 17 of our 18 FIPs from around the state for two half-days of sharing, learning, and relationship building. Participants included both partnership members as well as facilitators. Highlights from the Gathering include:

- Breakout sessions for both the Development and Implementation FIPs, providing the space to dive deeper into discussions with their peers and OWEB staff;
- A funders panel, which included representatives from Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, National Resources Conservation Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;
- Breakout sessions on 1) Technical Tools, 2) Writing a Strategic Action Plan, and 3) Moving from Planning to Implementation;
- Discussions on Stakeholder Engagement and Partnership Resiliency; and
- A presentation on the elements of effective networks for partnerships, by Converge for Impact, a consultancy specializing in collaborations and networks.

Feedback

A survey was sent to all participants at the conclusion of the Gathering to receive feedback on the event, including relevancy of sessions, suggestions for future gathering topics and feedback on if OWEB should offer such a gathering again and at what frequency.

The overall feedback from the gathering was excellent. Participants enjoyed the opportunity to interact with peers as well as hear from outside presenters. A few excerpts from the survey are below.

"It was a good opportunity to share ideas and experiences with other groups that might have encountered similar problems, or that might have taken different approaches to developing their partnerships."

"It was good to network with others, learn about their partnership experiences and share some of our own lessons learned."

*"Thanks to all the OWEB staff for putting together a great, useful, and inspiring FIP gathering."
"I thought the duration was perfect, giving people time to travel but also packing it in. Loved it! This was one of the more useful professional development opportunities I've experienced. Thank you!"*

Based on the positive feedback OWEB staff have begun to discuss future FIP gatherings, including frequency of gatherings and relevant topics.

Next Steps

Based on the feedback from participants, OWEB staff consider the Gathering a success and that it accomplished its goals, to offer sharing and networking opportunities among the FIPs. As OWEB staff work through the next Implementation and Development FIP grant cycles we will consider the timing and relevancy of another gathering of FIP partners.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov or 503-986-0046.

Attachments

- A. FIP Gathering Agenda
- B. FIP Gathering Attendee List

Focused Investment Partnership Gathering Agenda

March 13-14, 2018, Menucha Retreat Center

Tuesday, March 13

- 10:00 Arrive and Check-in
- 11:00 Kick-off by Meta and Menucha Orientation (Wright Hall)
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00-2:30 **Session 1: (Split by Development and Implementation FIPs)**
 A: Development-FIPs (Wright Hall)
 B: Implementation FIPs (Creevey Hall)
- 2:45-4:30 **Session 2: (Small Group Discussions, individuals choose where they want to go)**
 A: Technical tools: Mapping and databases (Creevey Hall)
 B: Writing a Strategic Action Plan (Greenhouse)
 C. Moving from planning to implementation, including project prioritization (Wright Hall)
- 4:45-6:00 **Session 3: Stakeholder Engagement Discussion (Wright Hall)**
- 6:00-7:00 Dinner
- 7:00-8:00 pm **Funder Panel (Wright Hall)**
- 8:00 pm Social Time

Wednesday, March 14 (All events will take place in Wright Hall)

- 8:00-9:00 Breakfast
- 9:00-10:00 Networks and Collaboration: The Santa Cruz Example
- 10:00-11:30 Discussion: Partnership Resiliency: How to build resilient partnerships that can achieve ecological outcomes.
- 11:30-12 Wrap-up
- 12-1pm Lunch

2018 OWEB FIP Gathering Participant Contact Information

| Name | Partnership | Organization |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Chris Chambers | Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Initiative | Ashland Fire & Rescue |
| Marko Bey | Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Initiative | Lomakatsi Restoration Project |
| Darren Borgias | Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Initiative | The Nature Conservancy |
| Jim Brick | Clackamas Partnership | ODFW |
| Todd Alsbury | Clackamas Partnership | ODFW |
| John Runyon | Clackamas Partnership | Cascade Environmental Group |
| Cheryl McGinnis | Clackamas Partnership | Clackamas River Basin Council |
| Lauren Mork | Deschutes Partnership | Upper Deschutes Watershed Council |
| Natasha Bellis | Deschutes Partnership | Deschutes River Conservancy |
| Tanner Scrivens | East Cascade Oak Partnership | Columbia Land Trust |
| Lindsay Cornelius | East Cascades Oak Partnership | Columbia Land Trust |
| Mary Bushman | East Cascades Oak Partnership | Private consultant |
| Chris Colson | Harney Basin Wetland Initiative | Ducks Unlimited |
| Bob Sallinger | Harney Basin Wetland Initiative | Audubon Society of Portland |
| Benjamin Cate | Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative | High Desert Partnership |
| Shawn Morford | Hood River Partnership | Network of Oregon Watershed Councils |
| Chuck Gehling | Hood River Partnership | Hood River Watershed Group |
| Cindy Thieman | Hood River Watershed Partners | Hood River Watershed Group |
| Herb Winters | John Day Basin Partnership | Gilliam SWCD |
| Bryan Vogt | John Day Basin Partnership | Monument SWCD |
| Michael Lambert | John Day Partnership | Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation |
| Caitlyn Gillespie | Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network | Klamath Bird Observatory |
| John Alexander | Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network | Klamath Bird Observatory |
| CalLee Davenport | Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network | USFWS |
| Debbie Pickering | Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative | TNC |
| Sam Whitridge | Rogue Basin Partnership | Rogue Basin Partnership |
| Denis Reich | Rogue Basin Partnership | Rogue Basin Partnership |
| Ann Schmierer | Siskiyou Coast Estuaries | Wild Rivers Land Trust |
| Erin Minster | Siskiyou Coast Estuaries | Curry County SWCD |
| Dan Carpenter | Siuslaw Coho Partnership | Siuslaw Watershed Council |
| Eli M Tome | Siuslaw Coho Partnership | Siuslaw Watershed Council |
| Mizu Burruss | Siuslaw Coho Partnership | Siuslaw Watershed Council |
| Eric Riley | Umpqua Basin Partnership | Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers |
| Lee Russell | Umpqua Partnership | Elk Creek WC |
| Coby Menton | Wallowa Fish Habitat Restoration Partnership | Grande Ronde Model Watershed |
| Jesse Steele | Wallowa Fish Habitat Restoration Partnership | Grande Ronde Model Watershed |
| Marci Krass | Willamette Anchor Habitat Working Group | Willamette Riverkeeper |

2018 OWEB FIP Gathering Participant Contact Information

| | | |
|----------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Andrea Berkley | Willamette Anchor Habitat Working Group | OPRD |
| Dan Bell | Willamette Anchor Habitat Working Group | Friends of the Columbia Gorge |
| Tom Kaye | Willamette Valley Oak and Priarie Cooperative | Institute for Applied Ecology |
| Clinton Begley | Willamette Valley Oak Prairie Cooperative | Long Tom Watershed Council |
| Jeff Krueger | Willamette Valley Oak Prairie Cooperative | JK Environments |
| Carolyn Menke | Willamette Valley Oak-Prairie Cooperative | Institute for Applied Ecology |

April 24-25, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update P-3: Technical Assistance Grants Rulemaking

This report provides the board an update on technical assistance (TA) grants rulemaking.

Background

At the July 2017 meeting, the board authorized staff to initiate rulemaking for TA grants. OWEB does not currently have rules specifically for TA grants; instead the grants are authorized under Division 5, OWEB Grant Program administrative rules, which is a broad rule division that encompasses all of OWEB grants.

TA Grants Rulemaking Update

A rules advisory committee (RAC) has been established to assist OWEB staff in developing TA administrative rules. A list of RAC members is found in Attachment A. Between February and April, the RAC met on two occasions to discuss concepts to include in rule language and to provide feedback on draft rules. OWEB staff incorporated these concepts into draft rules based on three TA grant categories:

- Organizational Technical Assistance Grants for groups of collaborating organizations seeking to improve organizational effectiveness to support actions that are necessary for carrying out eligible conservation actions or programs that lead to development of eligible projects;
- Resource Assessment and Planning Grants to support the development of information about existing water quality or habitat conditions and processes at an identified scale, and relates those conditions and processes to actions that will directly lead to desired future conditions; and
- Technical Design and Engineering Grants to support the development of project feasibility, designs, or engineering materials that directly lead to site-specific restoration or acquisition projects.

OWEB will submit the draft rules for public comment between May 1 and 31, 2018. Staff will address public comment received, and a final draft of the rules will be provided to the board to consider for adoption at the June 2018 meeting.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator, at eric.hartstein@oregon.gov or 503-986-0029.

Attachments

A. Technical Assistance Grants Rules Advisory Committee Members

Technical Assistance Grants Rules Advisory Committee Members

Brian Barr, Rogue River Watershed Council

Aaron Bliesener, Union Soil and Water Conservation District

Theresa DeBardelaben, Oregon Department of Agriculture

Chris Gannon, Crooked River Watershed Council

Nancy Gramlich, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Bryce Hill, Baker County Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Amy Horstman, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Haley Lutz, Nestucca-Neskowin and Sand Lake Watersheds Council

Eric Riley, Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Nell Scott, Trout Unlimited

Katie Voelke, North Coast Land Conservancy

Bryan Vogt, Monument Soil and Water Conservation District

Terry Warhol, Region 5 Regional Review Team and Retired U.S. Forest Service

Jared Weybright, McKenzie Watershed Council

April 24-25, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update P-4: Livestock Exclusion Monitoring Study Report

This report summarizes the long-term livestock exclusion monitoring study conducted under OWEB's effectiveness monitoring program.

Background

Livestock exclusion has been identified as an important action for restoring fragile riparian areas. Livestock exclusion includes building and maintaining fences along riparian areas. In 2006, OWEB and the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) initiated a cooperative study to monitor livestock exclusion projects in both states. This joint effort supports both agencies' effectiveness monitoring programs for watershed and salmon habitat restoration projects. This coordinated approach to monitoring represents a successful effort to collect comparable data across jurisdictional boundaries, thus increasing efficiencies in monitoring and strengthening the statistical power of the monitoring study.

Summary of the Study

Study Design

This project employs a Before-After-Control-Impact) design, where data are collected both before and after an "impact," or treatment, which in this case was fence building. The "control" is established in areas not expected to change during the project. The study gathered data about several parameters: livestock presence in the exclusion, bank erosion, canopy cover, riparian vegetation structure and pool tail fines (e.g., fine sediment) at each project site. Monitoring occurred before treatment, and again in years 1, 2, 5, and 10 after fence installation.

Findings

Results indicate that livestock exclusion projects significantly reduced bank erosion and improved riparian structure by Year 10. The study found no significant effects of livestock exclusion on bank canopy cover or percentage of fine sediment in pools. However, the mean percentage of pool tail fines was lower in all impact reaches, which indicates a desired trend. The reduction in bank erosion is consistent with previous studies on livestock exclusions that have generally shown decreases in bank erosion and increases in riparian vegetation structure and shade. It is possible that canopy cover may continue to improve in impact reaches with livestock exclusion. However, the lack of change in canopy cover and fine sediment are likely the results of several factors including: evidence of livestock grazing in many impact reaches, livestock exclusion in control reaches, limitations of the riparian sampling protocols, and challenges with statistical analyses due to some control reaches not being well matched with impact reaches.

The final report from the study is available in the 'Effectiveness Monitoring' section of OWEB's website at <http://www.oregon.gov/oweb/data-reporting/EM/Pages/Livestock-Exclusion-EM.aspx>.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator, at ken.fetcho@oregon.gov or 503-986-0035.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grants Program Manager
Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item Q: Other Business- Coastal Wetlands Grants
April 24-25, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff request the board approve receipt of one grant award from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) 2018 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program (NCWCGP) and delegate authority to the Director to award funds for the Winter Lake Restoration and Planting Project.

II. NCWCGP Funding Awarded in April 2018

NCWCGP funding has been used to support the infrastructure phase of the project. In 2017, OWEB submitted a NCWCGP application to support the restoration phase, including wetlands planting and reconnection of approximately 10 miles of remnant channels on the Winter Lake and Beaver Slough project sites to enhance habitat for migratory birds, anadromous fish, and other native fish and wildlife. In April 2018, the USFWS announced that the Winter Lake Restoration and Planting Project was awarded \$1,000,000 through the NCWCGP. The project's primary local implementer is The Nature Conservancy, with assistance from the Coquille Watershed Association and the Beaver Slough Drainage District.

III. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve receipt of funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 from USFWS under the 2018 NCWCGP and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds through the appropriate agreements with an award date of April 25, 2018 in support of the Winter Lake Restoration and Planting Project.



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Materials

for

**June 27, 2018
Board Meeting**

Cascade Locks, Oregon



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!**

Joint SRFB & OWEB Meeting Agenda

June 25-26, 2018

Skamania Lodge & Tour

1131 SW Skamania Lodge Way, Stevenson, WA 98648



WASHINGTON STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

Salmon Recovery
Funding Board



Time

Opening sessions will begin as shown; all other times are approximate.

Public Comment

To comment at the meeting, please fill out a comment card and provide it to staff. Please be sure to note on the card if you are speaking about a particular agenda topic. The chair will call you to the front at the appropriate time. Public comment will be limited to 3 minutes per person.

Meeting Accommodations

Persons with disabilities needing an accommodation to participate in RCO public meetings are invited to contact us via the following options: 1) Leslie Frank by phone (360) 902-0220 or e-mail leslie.frank@rco.wa.gov. Accommodation requests should be received at least three business days prior to the meeting to ensure availability. Please provide 2 weeks' notice for requests to receive information in an alternative format and for ASL/ESL interpretation requests.

MONDAY, JUNE 25

DINNER: Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) & Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

6:00 p.m. Joint Board Gathering, Introductions and Dinner – Skamania Lodge, Adams Room

David Troutt, Chair SRFB
Randy Labbe, Co-Chair OWEB
Will Neuhauser, Co-Chair OWEB

8:00 p.m. Recess

TUESDAY, JUNE 26

MEETING: Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) & Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

7:00 a.m. Breakfast – Skamania Lodge, Jefferson Room

8:00 a.m. Opening Remarks, Adams Room

David Troutt, Chair SRFB
Randy Labbe, Co-Chair
OWEB

Kaleen Cottingham, RCO
Meta Loftsgaarden, OWEB

8:10 a.m. Discussion with NOAA Regional Administrator Barry Thom

Barry Thom, Regional
Administrator, NOAA
Fisheries, West Coast Region

8:50 a.m. Salmon Recovery – Overview of Oregon's and Washington's Organizations and salmon recovery structures, including capacity and project funding.

Tara Galuska, RCO
Liz Redon, OWEB
20 minutes each
20 minutes Q&A

9:50 a.m. Sharing best practices and lessons learned on focused investment strategies

Andrew Dutterer, OWEB
Eric Hartstein, OWEB

10:20 a.m. BREAK

10:35 a.m. Shared Monitoring Needs and Addressing Predation (Northern Pike, Sea Lions and Terns)

Steve Martin, GSRO
Keith Dublanica, GSRO
Justin Bush, WISC

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 11:20 a.m. | Communication and Outreach strategies | Steve Martin, GSRO, RCO Courtney Shaff, OWEB 15 minutes each |
| 11:50 p.m. | Public Comment | |
| 12:15 p.m. | Grab Lunch and DEPART ON TOUR | |

AFTERNOON TOUR

| | | |
|-------------------|--|--|
| 12:30 p.m. | DEPARTURE – Meet at Bus | |
| 1:00 p.m. | Hemlock Dam Site (Washington) | Josh Lambert, RCO Steve Manlow, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board |
| 2:00 p.m. | TRAVEL | |
| 3:00 p.m. | East Fork Hood River Site (Oregon) | Greg Ciannella, OWEB Cindy Thieman, Hood River Watershed Group Chris Brun, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs John Buckley, East Fork Irrigation District |
| 4:00 p.m. | TRAVEL | |
| 4:45 p.m. | SRFB & OWEB Informal Reception - Marine Park Pavilion, Cascade Locks (Oregon) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosts: Columbia Land Trust, Friends of Columbia Gorge Underwood Conservation District, Mid-Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement, Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District | Randy Labbe, Co-Chair OWEB Will Neuhauser, Co- Chair OWEB |
| 5:45 p.m. | TOUR CONCLUDES – Travel to Skamania Lodge | |
| 6:30 p.m. | Joint Board Dinner and Tribal Presentation - Skamania Lodge, Adams Room | Will Neuhauser, Co-Chair OWEB Eric Quaempts, Interim Executive Director, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation |
| 8:00 p.m. | JOINT MEETING CONCLUDES | |

Acronyms

OWEB – Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon
SRFB – Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Washington
RCO – Recreation and Conservation Office, Washington
GSRO – Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office, Washington
WISC – Washington Invasive Species Council, Washington



Oregon

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Liz Redon, Willamette Regional Program Representative
SUBJECT: Overview of OWEB Grant-making
June 26, 2018 SRFB/OWEB Meeting

I. Introduction

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is a state agency that provides grants to help Oregonians take care of Oregon's watersheds. Grants are funded mostly from the Oregon Lottery, federal dollars, and salmon license plate revenue. Since 1997, the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, or 'Oregon Plan,' has guided these efforts. Attachment A provides the executive summary of OWEB's 2015-2017 biennial report for the Oregon Plan.

II. OWEB Grant Offerings

Grants offerings began in 1999 with an Open Solicitation approach that included grants for restoration, assessment, monitoring, education, and council support. Since then, offerings have evolved and diversified to adaptively respond to the changing needs for an effective statewide watershed health restoration strategy. Today, OWEB's grant portfolio offers a variety of pathways and grant types that are found in Attachment B.

III. Grant Application, Technical Review Process, and Agreements

Applications are required for every grant offering. Each application is subject to a review by technical experts familiar with the subject matter and geography of the project. These review teams typically include staff from federal and state agencies, tribes, and non-profit organizations. For restoration and acquisition projects, reviewers are encouraged to participate in site visits coordinated by OWEB staff. At review team meetings, OWEB staff facilitates a discussion to identify the strengths and concerns of the project with respect to the applicable evaluation criteria. Based on this discussion, review teams provide a recommendation to staff for each project. OWEB staff synthesizes review team comments and recommendations into a project evaluation and funding recommendation to the OWEB Board or Director. The OWEB Board awards the grants based on this staff report, or gives authority to the Director to award grants for certain offerings. Grant agreements are developed to establish expectations of the grant

award, and include reporting requirements and any unique conditions for the project that is determined necessary to ensure likelihood for success.

IV. OWEB Grantees

OWEB grantees include organizations of all sizes and roles within the voluntary watershed restoration approach of the Oregon Plan. Grantees include watershed councils and other nongovernmental entities, soil and water conservation districts, and other special districts, tribes, land trusts, and local governments. These groups often form partnerships that broaden the network of entities contributing to Oregon's cooperative conservation approach to watershed health. Together they provide significant watershed, economic, and community benefits.

V. Lessons Learned

Recently, OWEB staff interviewed grantees implementing cooperative conservation to reflect on the impacts of watershed investments in Oregon (see Attachment C).

Attachments

- A. 2015-2017 Biennial Report
- B. Summary of grant programs
- C. Summary of Lessons Learned- Key Findings



2015-2017 BIENNIAL REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

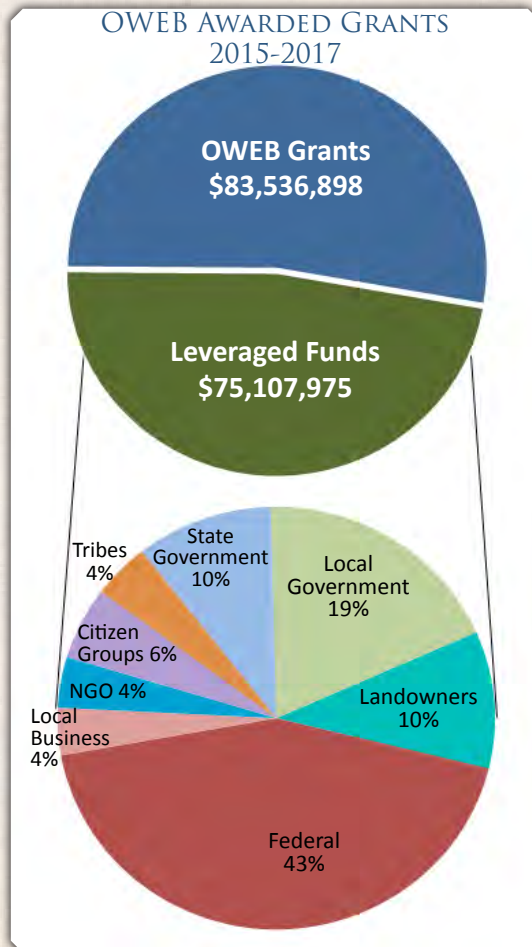
The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds

From rural landowners to urban residents, Oregonians value watersheds as a key to our quality of life in Oregon. This care and commitment helps drive on-the-ground projects that aim to improve water quality and restore habitat for native fish and wildlife. Since 1997, the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (or ‘the Oregon Plan’) has guided these efforts. The Oregon Plan provides a statewide framework for restoration and conservation of the state’s watersheds and fish and wildlife habitats, while at the same time supporting local economies and enriching Oregon’s communities through local, voluntary restoration. Pursuant to Oregon Revised Statute 541.972, the Oregon Plan Biennial Report describes activities implemented under the plan for the 2015-2017 biennium. This Executive Summary of the biennial report highlights key investments and accomplishments over the past two years; coordinated actions among Oregon Plan partners and agencies; and recommendations from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) about future work. The full report can be found on the [Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds website](#) and includes information about each region of the state, as well as additional details about the activities and accomplishments summarized below.

2015-2017 INVESTMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Total funding for watershed enhancement projects in Oregon was over \$158 million during the 2015-2017 Biennium. This total includes funding provided by OWEB from the Oregon Lottery, the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF), salmon license plate revenues, and other sources. PCSRF, funded by NOAA Fisheries, remained an important contributor to Oregon’s restoration efforts. Significant funding to match these dollars is provided by other funders, agencies, and partner organizations, increasing the impact of OWEB funding throughout the state.

Partners under the Oregon Plan are as important and diverse as the actions they undertake to benefit salmon and watersheds. These partners include landowners, non-profit organizations, tribes, local businesses, individuals, and all levels of government, each contributing to collaborative investments designed to support priority actions across the state.



Grants awarded by OWEB from 7/1/15 to 6/30/17, the amount of leveraged funds contributed by grant participants, and the percentage of leveraged funds contributed by different categories of participants.

| Watershed Metric | OWRI | BLM | USFS | Total |
|--|----------|-------|-------|----------|
| Riparian Miles (e.g., streamside plantings) | 245.6 | 128.8 | 187 | 561.4 |
| Instream Habitat Miles (e.g., wood placement) | 153.6 | - | - | 153.6 |
| Miles of Fish Habitat Made Accessible | 142.0 | 16.6 | 182.0 | 340.6 |
| Stream Crossings Improved for Fish Passage | 91 | 8 | 64 | 163 |
| Push-up Dams Retired to Improve Fish Passage | 14 | - | - | 14 |
| Fish Screens Installed on Water Diversions | 31 | - | - | 31 |
| Upland Acres (e.g., juniper thinning, seeding) | 68,141.4 | - | - | 68,141.4 |
| Wetland Acres (e.g., wetland habitat created) | 2,128.2 | - | - | 2,128.2 |
| Miles of Road Closures | 21.0 | 1.5 | 274.0 | 296.5 |
| Miles of Road Improvements (e.g., erosion control) | 53.0 | 111.5 | 125.0 | 289.5 |
| Miles of Riparian Invasive Treatments | 508.0 | - | - | 508.0 |

Watershed restoration activities completed from 1/1/15 to 12/31/16 as reported to the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI), U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Restoration metrics are collected after projects are completed and reported to OWEB. Therefore, there is a lag between the current biennium and the time period for which metrics are available.

COORDINATED AGENCY ACTIONS

Oregon Plan agencies recognize the value of shared approaches. Collaboration across state natural resources agencies continued throughout the 2015-2017 biennium on several key interagency initiatives, including (but are not limited to):

- The Sage-Grouse Conservation Partnership ([SageCon](#)), which brings together landowners, agencies, and interest groups to identify and address threats to sagebrush habitats and the species that rely on them, implementing the [Oregon Greater Sage-Grouse Action Plan](#) (2015);
- The Conservation Effectiveness Partnership, a collaborative effort among multiple state and federal agencies that aims to describe the effectiveness of cumulative conservation and restoration actions in achieving natural resource outcomes through collaborative monitoring, evaluation, and reporting;
- Agricultural landowners engaging in innovative

and results-oriented water quality improvements with assistance from Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA's) Coordinated Streamside Management and Strategic Implementation Areas initiative;

- Ongoing implementation of Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (led by the Oregon Water Resources Department) and the state's Federal Forest Health Program (led by the Oregon Department of Forestry);
- The first update to the [Oregon Conservation Strategy](#) in 2016; and
- Initial implementation of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's [Multi-Species Coastal Management Plan](#) for salmon and other native fish.

Additional information about coordinated actions around the state focused on monitoring water quality and quantity, fish populations, and habitat, are described in the [Biennial Report](#), along with details about other Oregon Plan agency programs.

FROM THE OWEB BOARD



In the past two biennia, the OWEB Board has made recommendations in four significant investment areas: Operating Capacity, Open Solicitation, Focused Investments, and Monitoring. During the 2015-2017 biennium, OWEB invested significant effort in turning these recommendations into reality, awarding over \$13 million in Operating Capacity grants; over \$45 million in Open Solicitation grants; nearly \$14 million in Focused Investment Partnerships; launching a new online grant application system; and continuing to support monitoring and reporting on all aspects of the Oregon Plan.

The OWEB Board has nearly completed an update to its 2010 Strategic Plan, which provides an opportunity for the agency to strategically look at its programs and granting decisions, and consider how best to address new challenges and seize upon new opportunities over the long term.

As we look toward the future, the Board recommends support of several investment areas and partnerships.

- Continuing to invest in local organizational capacity via OWEB's Operating Capacity grant-making and locally driven, high-priority projects—including working lands approaches on both forestry and agricultural lands around the state—through Open Solicitation grants, along with effectiveness monitoring of these investments.
- Making programmatic investments that contribute to the conservation and recovery of native fish and

wildlife and their habitats through coordinated, large-scale programs. Examples include:

- Investing in future Focused Investment Partnerships and associated monitoring and tracking of progress by these partnerships.
- Continuing OWEB's commitment to greater sage-grouse habitat restoration by investing at least \$10 million in funds between 2015 and 2025.
- Assisting with implementation of the federal recovery plan for Oregon Coast coho salmon by supporting development of strategic action plans in support of coho restoration work.
- Developing partnerships with other state and federal agencies to improve the use of water-quality data to inform conservation and restoration investments and develop tools to improve water quality and streamside health on agricultural lands. One example is Coordinated Streamside Management, initiated by ODA and OWEB to improve water quality, initially focused on agricultural lands.
- Supporting Oregon's forest health by administering grants to forest health collaboratives in partnership with Oregon Department of Forestry.
- Supporting Oregon's working farms and ranches in coordination with agriculture and conservation organizations to identify approaches to keep working lands in agriculture while supporting fish, wildlife and other natural resource values. Find more information on the [Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program webpage](#).

OWEB Grant Offerings

| Pathways | Types |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <p>Open Solicitation</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Restoration grants are OWEB’s primary method of delivering support for projects that restore watershed function. Typical restoration grants include riparian and upland habitat restoration, fish passage projects, and in-stream habitat restoration. b. Technical Assistance grants are for resource assessment, project planning and design. The grants also include technical assistance activities important for implementing the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, including planning, training, and landowner engagement. c. Stakeholder Engagement grants are intended for landowner and community engagement necessary for developing restoration or acquisition projects. d. Monitoring grants are used for assessing project effectiveness, identifying causes for changes in trajectory in habitat, fish and wildlife populations, and water quality, and developing plans to guide monitoring efforts. e. Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring grants evaluate specific types of restoration actions at a larger geographic and temporal scale than project-level monitoring. These initiatives consist of evaluating the effectiveness of OWEB-funded restoration projects and programs. f. Land and Water Acquisitions grants involve the acquisition of interests inland and water from willing sellers for the purpose of maintaining or restoring watersheds and habitat for native fish or wildlife. The offering also includes technical assistance for work necessary for complex tidally influenced projects. In addition, OWEB works closely with local conservation and restoration partners for applications to US Fish and Wildlife for long-term coastal wetland ecosystems conservation. g. Oregon State Weed Board grants protect watershed health from the negative impacts of State Listed noxious weeds. h. Small Grants for small, straightforward restoration projects. The projects cannot exceed \$15,000, and are often the first experience a landowner has with OWEB. |
| <p>Focused Investments</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Implementation Focused Investment Partnerships grants address board-identified priorities of significance to the state; achieves clear and measurable ecological outcomes; use results-orientated approaches identified in strategic action plans; and are implemented by high-performing partnerships over a six-year timeframe. b. Development Focused Investment Partnerships grants support existing partnerships to build their capacity to partner at a high-performing level, generate a new strategic action plan, and/or to enhance an existing plan within a board-identified priority of significance to the state. |

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| | <p>c. Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring grants evaluate the dedication of funding to specific actions in a particular geographic area. The approach employed by Focused Investment Partnerships provides an opportunity to learn about the progress and outcomes possible under six-year investments. Information emerging from these investments will be used by the board and stakeholders to adaptively manage partnership investments in the future.</p> |
| <p>Operating Capacity</p> | <p>a. Capacity (Watershed Council & Soil and Water Conservation District) grants support the operations of effective watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts to engage people in their communities to participate in collaborative, voluntary restoration of watersheds that conserve natural resources and address priority agricultural water quality concerns.</p> <p>b. Statewide Organization Partnership Support grants support the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, and Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network. These separate groups collaborate to deliver technical support, member services, program development, training, and outreach to their stakeholders.</p> <p>c. Organization Collaboration grants are available to groups of collaborating organizations seeking to improve organizational effectiveness to support actions that are necessary for carrying out eligible conservation actions or programs that lead to development of eligible projects.</p> |
| <p>Other</p> | <p>a. Oregon CREP is a cooperative venture between the State of Oregon and Farm Services Agency, with technical support from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and local partners. The purpose of this long-standing program is to restore, maintain, and enhance streamside areas along agricultural lands to benefit fish, wildlife, and water quality. Landowners enrolled in CREP receive annual rental payments and state and federal cost-share incentives to install approved conservation measures such as planting trees and shrubs, and installing fencing and livestock watering facilities.</p> <p>b. Strategic Implementation Areas grants are offered in partnership with Oregon Department of Agriculture in select areas around the state to receive focused landowner engagement to address priority water quality concerns.</p> <p>c. Governor’s Priorities grants address landscape-scale or emerging issues related to restoration needs of importance as identified by the Governor’s Office. Grant investments are targeted and catalyze broad-scale, multi-organizational work.</p> |

Summary of Lessons Learned-Key Findings

The following resulted from a qualitative analysis of grantee interviews designed to understand the impact of watershed investments in Oregon:

A. Partnerships Increase Opportunities and Impact

Partnerships create strengths that reach beyond an individual organization's existing capacity. Creating a network of collaborative relationships among partners with different expertise, skills, and resources enables organizations to implement landscape-scale watershed projects. This builds motivation and optimism among partners as they see how their role benefits projects and communities. OWEB investments can grow partnerships, which has a synergistic effect that increases scope, scale, efficiency, and impacts of cooperative conservation.

B. Cornerstone Funder as Bedrock

Permanently dedicated lottery funding distributed by OWEB enables grantees to propose large, complex projects that have the greatest potential for improving watershed health. These funds are crucial for grantees to leverage other funding sources and expand their impact. OWEB's funding portfolio reflects on-the-ground needs and the evolving recognition of what it takes—both ecologically and organizationally—to carry out meaningful watershed enhancement. This awareness in OWEB's grant-making helps organizations complete the work that is most needed in their communities. OWEB is viewed not only as a funder, but as a partner.

C. The Road to Impact is Lined with Capacity

OWEB grantees define capacity as (1) funding to achieve their organizations' missions, (2) staff and board expertise, and (3) the level of engagement of their boards and members. Interviewees stated that their organizations believe long-term stable funding is the key to capacity, which leads to successfully engaging communities and expanding impact.

D. Relationships Matter

OWEB grantees serve as critical relationship builders in their communities. They are in a unique position to initiate conversations within communities that allow diverse interests to be communicated. These discussions move beyond a "one-size fits all" approach by providing the space for community members to discuss their interests and concerns. A history of collaboration and two-way knowledge exchange, especially when guided by respected community members, helps develop locally-driven projects and build a foundation of legitimacy and trust in communities.

E. From Ridge Top to River Valley: Diverse Strategies for Watershed Engagement Needed

The path to maintaining gains in watershed health and continuing to recruit voluntary action in cooperative conservation requires long-term and diverse approaches. Telling the watershed story can build community and individual aspirations for healthy watersheds; and ongoing engagement invites participation in conservation-focused organizations and projects. This storytelling is necessary to communicate the value of voluntary restoration to a community, and can create opportunities for watershed projects, as well as generate financial support.

F. We're on the Road to Somewhere: Planning Provides the Road Map, Evaluation Measures the Impact

Long-term vision for conservation work is important to proceed methodically and maximize impact. Planning helps to uncover not only the symptoms of impairments to watershed health, but the root causes. There is also broad interest among partners to evaluate conservation projects so grantees can describe outcomes of investments to a diverse audience, including landowners, funders, and the broader community. Showing the effects of conservation builds trust and creates opportunities for engaging more Oregonians in the work.

G. Diversity: An Opportunity for Growth

The Oregon Plan focused on a voluntary approach among landowners, communities and agencies; and the role of diversity, equity and inclusion was not yet evident in this blueprint for watersheds. There is now a belief that more can be achieved by engaging entire communities and focusing on including the underrepresented that typically have not participated in cooperative conservation efforts.

H. It Works Because We See Results

The cooperative conservation process provides an opportunity for stakeholders to overcome legacies of distrust and see that conservation can be compatible with economic development, working lands, and cultural resources. People begin to see that this approach can diversify opportunities through the stewardship economy that has emerged. Cooperative conservation results in "win-wins" for economies, communities, and the environment. Success stories are increasing confidence in and commitment to cooperative conservation as a solution for improving watershed health.

I. Scaling Up Impact

Landscape scale restoration is needed to have a significant impact on watershed health. To successfully scale up impact, organizations are identifying that they need to approach their work differently. Necessary elements include: (1) Expanded organizational capacity, (2) Increased collaboration among partners, (3) Looking beyond boundaries, (4) Access to foundational funding from OWEB and other funders, (5) Developing and implementing robust plans, and (6) Increasing evaluation to tell the story of the impact.



Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: June 26, 2018

Title: Salmon Recovery Overview – Washington State

Prepared By: Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, Recreation and Conservation Office

Summary

This memo summarizes the structure of *Salmon Recovery In Washington State*

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Request for Decision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Request for Direction |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Briefing |

Background

Salmon Recovery in Washington state involves a large network of people dedicated to bringing salmon populations back from the brink of extinction. Salmon were first listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act in Washington in the 1990s. We currently have 15 listed species of salmonids with over 145 populations throughout the state. The legislature responded to the listings by enacting the Salmon Recovery Act in 1999, setting up the unique bottom-up approach to recovery. Funding to enact the legislation comes from the state legislature's approval of the state capital and operating budgets and from the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery fund, administered by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The Salmon Recovery Act created the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board), the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO), and the regional organization and lead entity structure to write and implement recovery plans in the state. The GSRO, and the Natural Resource Cabinet, authored the foundational strategy document for recovery titled, [Extinction is Not an Option](#). It was updated in 2006, and renamed to "[The Washington Way](#)." Efforts are afoot right now to plan for a 2019 review and update to the strategy.

Although the Endangered Species Act requires the federal government to develop recovery plans for salmon species at risk of extinction, the State of Washington decided to take on the development of these plans through the regional organizations. State law directed development of a statewide strategy to recover salmon on an evolutionarily significant basis. The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, together with other state and federal agencies, defined eight geographical salmon recovery regions.



Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

To coordinate the work of recovery planning and implementation, seven regional organizations formed within the regional recovery areas. Recovery plans were developed and approved by NOAA for all listed species, with the exception of Puget Sound Steelhead which is currently being developed with federal, state, tribal, local and private partners. NOAA Fisheries listed Puget Sound steelhead as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act in 2007. A draft plan will be available for public review in 2018, with a final plan completed in 2019. In addition, a plan for the coast region was developed to address species that were not listed in the effort to have healthy, diverse and self-sustaining populations of salmon, maintained by healthy habitats and ecosystems, which also support the ecological, cultural, social, and economic needs of human communities. The board's primary role is to administer state and federal funding and to assist with a broad range of salmon-related activities. The primary goal is to recover salmonids (salmon, trout, and steelhead) by providing grants to local organizations. The Board funds projects consistent with the priorities identified in regional recovery plans that have been vetted by scientists, community members, and regional recovery organizations.

The board is composed of five voting members appointed by the governor and five non-voting state agency directors (or their designees). The board believes that science-driven, technically smart projects supported by local elected officials and citizens is essential to its strong grant program. Projects must demonstrate, through an evaluation and a monitoring process, that effective implementation will provide sustained benefit to fish.

The board funds riparian, freshwater, estuarine, nearshore, saltwater, and upland projects that protect existing, high quality habitats for salmon. It also funds projects to restore degraded habitat in order to increase overall habitat health and biological productivity of the fish. Projects may include the actual habitat used by salmon and the land and water that support ecosystem functions and processes important to salmon.

In September 2001, the board funded six regional groups to develop recovery plans. Each group developed a recovery plan that expanded on previous planning efforts and helped connect local, social, cultural, and economic needs and desires with science and the Endangered Species Act goals. The six organizations developed a series of actions necessary to recover salmon and gained regional consensus on measurable fish recovery results. Each of these regional recovery plans was reviewed and approved by NOAA. Today, the regional organizations implement these recovery plans and update them as necessary. A seventh regional organization, for the coastal area, which had no listed species at the time of formation, completed the *Washington Coastal Sustainability Plan*. The hallmark of this plan is that it protects the region's salmon habitats by bringing together partnerships aimed at safeguarding and enhancing the natural function of the regional ecosystems on which salmon depend. Currently, efforts are underway to develop a plan for Puget Sound Steelhead, which were listed in 2007. Additionally, the US Fish and Wildlife



Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

retained authority for developing a recovery plan for listed bulltrout. We use state funds to support projects in northeast Washington for bull trout recovery.

Recovery plans, or in their absence, lead entity strategies, form the basis for the Salmon Recovery grant program. Grant applicants must demonstrate how projects address the actions defined in the regional recovery plans or lead entity strategies.

By applying for a grant from the board, applicants become part of the salmon recovery network. That network includes larger watershed groups, regional organizations, non-profit organizations, state and federal agencies, local and tribal governments, as well as the Legislature, Governor, and Congress. This network supports salmon recovery, starting on the local level, which starts with people developing plans and projects.

The work of the board and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office is supported by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), which is a state agency whose director is appointed by the Governor. The RCO has 62 FTEs. The RCO administers many grant programs, in addition to those flowing through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Currently the RCO administers 17 distinct grant programs which funnel approximately \$534 million dollars in new and re-appropriated funds into projects that relate to salmon recovery, wildlife conservation, recreation, farmland and forest land preservation, and invasive species. The funding comes from federal funds, state general obligation bond funds, general tax funds, and dedicated funds (i.e. gas taxes and permit fees).

Links

- A. [Recreation and Conservation Office Salmon Recovery Page](#)
- B. [State of the Salmon in Watersheds Report](#)
- C. [Manual 18 2018, Salmon Recovery Grants Manual](#)



Oregon

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Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Andrew Dutterer, Partnerships Coordinator
Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator

SUBJECT: Sharing Best Practices and Lessons Learned on Focused Investment Strategies
June 26, 2018 SRFB/OWEB Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an overview of OWEB's Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) program, which includes both "Development" and "Implementation" grant offerings.

II. Background

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 OWEB Board established the following statewide 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

III. FIP Grant Program

The FIP grant program supports high-performing partnerships that utilize strategic action plans to implement conservation work with clear and measurable outcomes in the established priority areas.

The Development FIP grant program considers initiatives with an existing partnership that are pursuing enhancement of that partnership, development of a strategic action plan, and community engagement in support of the strategic action plan. Funding for Development FIP grants is for up to three years and \$150,000. Beginning in the 2015-2017 biennium, the OWEB Board has made available approximately \$1 million for the

Development FIP grant program per biennium. Current Development FIP initiatives are described in Attachment A.

The Implementation FIP grant program considers initiatives with an existing strategic action plan that are ready for implementation by a high performing partnership for a period of up to six years, seeking an average of \$2 million/biennium. In the 2015-2017 biennium. The OWEB Board awarded over \$14 million to six Implementation FIP initiatives (Attachment A) for conservation work beginning in that biennium. In the current biennium, the OWEB Board has awarded over \$15.5 million for the existing Implementation FIP initiatives.

IV. Implementation FIP Progress Monitoring Framework

OWEB has provided a grant to Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) to develop a progress monitoring framework for Implementation FIP partnerships. The key elements of the framework are a results chain and a theory of change narrative. Results chains are graphical representations of the partnership's theory of change for how strategies are expected to produce long-term ecological impacts. These tools offer a mechanism for adaptive management within an initiative, and provide a mechanism for the partnerships and OWEB Board to track progress towards meeting desired ecological outcomes.

V. Partnership Learning Project

In addition, OWEB's board awarded funds to BEF for FIP effectiveness monitoring, including the "Partnership Learning Project." The purpose of the Partnership Learning Project is to better understand what partnerships need to be resilient and maintain a high level of performance, and how OWEB can improve the FIP program to support these partnerships to achieve desired ecological outcomes.

VI. Lessons Learned

As the FIP grant program is relatively new, it has been important for OWEB to allow for flexibility in both Development and Implementation FIP initiatives. OWEB recognizes that each partnership is unique, and strives to manage the program in a manner that respects the distinct ecological and social challenges that partnerships face. Through the work of BEF and their project partner, Reciprocity Consulting, OWEB has also engaged in a "Partnership Learning Project" with each FIP initiative in which critical questions about the challenges partnerships face, the resilience of partnerships through time, and how the FIP program may be improved are being asked. The findings that are generated through this process are expected to help guide the FIP program into the future. Attachment B is the Executive Summary of Phase I of the Partnership Learning Project.

VII. Recommendation

This report is for informational purposes only.

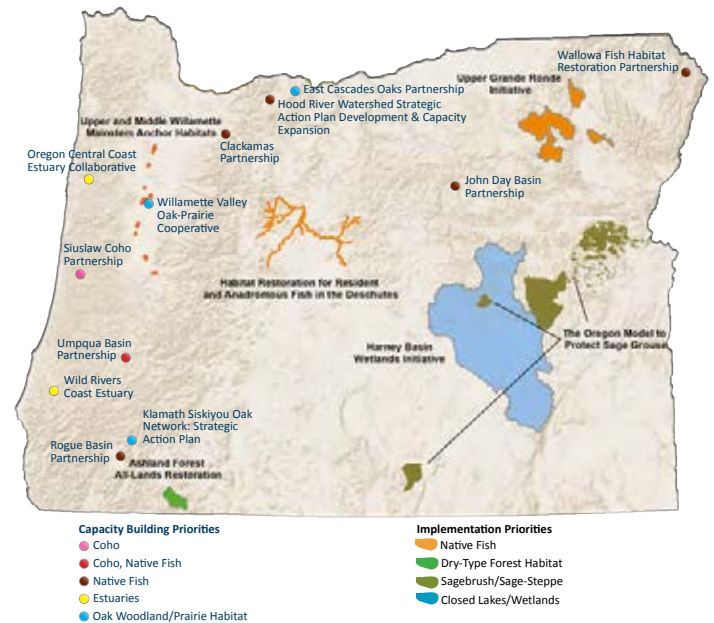
Attachments

- A. Development and Implementation FIP Initiatives
- B. Partnership Learning Project, Phase I Executive Summary

Focused Investment Partnerships

Landscape-Scale Conservation

A Focused Investment Partnership is an OWEB investment that addresses a board-identified priority of significance to the state, achieves clear and measurable ecological outcomes, uses integrated and results-oriented approaches as identified through a strategic action plan, and is implemented by a high-performing partnership. Through the Implementation program (see below), OWEB has awarded the first four years of planned 6-year investments for 6 partnerships, whose actions are designed to achieve measurable progress toward ecological outcomes. Through the Development program (see reverse), OWEB has awarded grants to partnerships seeking to strengthen their collaborative work and develop strategic action plans.



Implementation Partnerships

Upper and Middle Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitats

- Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitats Working Group was awarded \$2,445,000 by OWEB to rehabilitate the floodplain and riparian forests, reconnect the river to its historical floodplain, and increase channel complexity.
- The total cost of the initiative is \$4,430,000.*

Upper Grande Ronde Initiative

- Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership will improve and increase habitat quantity, quality, and diversity for all life stages of spring Chinook, summer steelhead, and other native species in Catherine Creek and the Upper Grande Ronde. OWEB will invest \$2,417,000 in the \$18,263,620* initiative.

Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative

- Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative Partners will develop a model for complex problem resolution for controlling carp and improving aquatic health in Harney Basin wetlands. OWEB will invest \$1,970,000 in the \$3,110,000* initiative.

Habitat Restoration for Resident and Anadromous Fish in the Deschutes

- 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. OWEB will fund \$4,000,000 of the \$6,960,000* initiative.

Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration

- Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Partnership will create a balance of open- and closed-canopy habitat conditions approaching the Natural Range of Variability. Their work will also provide landscape resilience to mitigate the threat of severe wildfire to water quality, dependent wildlife, late-successional habitat, oak habitat, aquatic habitats for native fish, and surrounding human communities. OWEB will fund \$2,340,000 of the \$4,090,000* initiative.

Oregon Model to Protect Sage-Grouse, All Counties

- Greater sage-grouse populations have declined in Oregon and throughout the West. Oregon All Counties Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) Steering Committee was awarded \$2,355,000 by OWEB to develop and implement CCAAs with private landowners for the seasonal or year-round protection of sage-grouse habitat. The total cost of the initiative is \$2,997,750.*

* Initiative costs are approximate for the 2017-2019 biennium.

Focused Investment Partnerships



Development Partnerships

Coho Habitat and Populations along the Coast

Siuslaw Coho Partnership

Support of the Siuslaw, Siltcoos, and Tahkenitch coho populations with 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.

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

Umpqua Basin Partnership

Prioritization of restoration efforts throughout the entire basin, taking into account the long-term ecological recovery of the system for native species.

Coho Habitat and Populations along the Coast, Coastal Estuaries

Wild Rivers Coast Estuaries

Restoration of estuarine processes and functions in 10 South Coast estuaries over a 10-year timeframe.

Coastal Estuaries

Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative

Protection and restoration of ecologically functional estuaries on the central Oregon Coast to improve their health and resilience.

Oak Woodland and Prairie

Willamette Valley Oak-Prairie Cooperative

Protection, restoration, and maintenance of a functional, resilient network of oak and prairie habitats in the Willamette Valley.

Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network

Establishment of short-, medium-, and long-term goals for oak habitat restoration actions to achieve ecological outcomes critical to reversing declining trends of oak-associated plants and wildlife over the entire southern Oregon landscape.

East Cascades Oaks Partnership

Development of an adaptive, strategic, collaborative, multi-scale approach to conservation that will improve the pace, scale, and effectiveness of oak conservation efforts in the East Cascades Ecoregion.

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

John Day Basin Partnership

Acceleration of the pace, scale, and impact of watershed restoration across the basin with 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.

Rogue Basin Partnership

Preservation and improvement of conditions to support native fish with clean water at sufficient volumes throughout the year to maintain healthy, interconnected, native riparian/floodplain forests and grassland and upland forest habitats dominated by native species.

Clackamas Partnership

Prioritization of actions for the recovery of listed species and to benefit Clackamas native fish populations informed by the Lower Columbia River Conservation & Recovery Plan.

Wallowa Fish Habitat Restoration Partnership

Prioritization and implementation of habitat restoration projects designed to maximize biological benefits in the Wallowa and Imnaha River subbasins to native aquatic species, with emphasis on Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout in the Wallowa and Imnaha subbasins.

Hood River Partnership

Restoration of priority streams in the Hood River Watershed, including improved streamflows and instream habitat to support the recovery of threatened populations of Lower Columbia River steelhead, spring Chinook, and coho.



Executive Summary

OWEB's Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Program was initiated in the 2015-2016 biennium to make multi-year investments in partnerships, which demonstrated strong potential to accelerate the restoration of priority species and habitats. In January 2016, the OWEB Board awarded \$13.7 million to fourteen partnerships – eight received two-year Capacity Building FIP grants to support the continued growth and development of their partnerships and six received six-year Implementation FIP grants to support large-scale on-the-ground restoration.

By encouraging reflection among grantees, this Partnership Learning Project aims to better understand:

- 1) What do partnerships need to be resilient and maintain a high level of performance?** and
- 2) How can OWEB improve and innovate the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) program to support high performing, resilient partnerships that can make progress toward desired ecological outcomes?**

This report presents findings from the eight partnerships that received Capacity Building grants – **Clackamas Basin Partnership, John Day Basin Partnership, Oregon Central Coast Estuaries, Rogue Basin Partnership, Siuslaw Coho Partnership, Umpqua Basin Partnership, Wallowa Habitat Restoration Partnership**, and the **Wild Rivers Estuary Partnership**. These findings were produced from attending meetings of all eight Capacity Building partnerships from October 2016 to April 2017, in-depth interviews with 17 partners, and online survey responses from 80 partners across the partnerships.

Starting in Fall 2017, the same methods will be used to encourage reflection among the six partnerships that received Implementation FIP grants. Those findings will be presented in a separate report anticipated in Spring 2018.

Understanding the Value Proposition of a Partnership

Drawing from the public administration literature, it is helpful to think about partnerships on a continuum from **more autonomous partnerships**, where partners are loosely linked and periodically come together for information sharing or project-based collaboration, to **more collaborative partnerships**, where partners are committed to collective goals, complementary roles, and an integrated work plan.



Continuum of Partnerships



More collaborative partnerships require greater investments in planning, governance, conflict management, and communications, but the promise is that this increased investment will strategically leverage the strengths of diverse partners to tackle more complex restoration goals more effectively (Arnold and Bartels 2014, Warren, Reeve and Arnold 2016). When organizations align and focus their efforts, they also tend to be more attractive to funders, which has been prominent in partners’ motivation for participating in the Capacity Building FIP grant.

“A big part of the motivation was working together in a more strategic way so that we could attract larger funding into the basin. The message was loud and clear that funders didn’t want to fund single entities focused on single actions. If we wanted to get the work done that we wanted, then we had to work in a different way.”

What do partnerships need to be resilient, high performers?

Most partnerships in this study have been collaborating on specific projects for many years. Through OWEB’s Capacity Building FIP grant, they have had the opportunity to build on that foundation through the development of 1) a strategic action plan that includes a prioritization framework for restoration activities, 2) governance documents that describe how partners will work together, and 3) an outreach plan that describes coordinated outreach to new partners and external stakeholders.

Reflecting on their history and how far they have come, many partners realized that one to three years of relationship building and internal organizational development were needed to solidify commitment to a collaborative effort before technical planning even began. Those groups that began strategic planning before talking about how partners would work together seemed to experience more internal skepticism and challenging group dynamics.

Throughout this early phase and even beyond, most partnerships experienced a cyclical process of addressing doubts and fears and reassuring partners of the value of working



together. Leaders who practiced good listening skills, diplomacy, and patience were able to effectively address doubts and keep the partnership unified. Partners felt stretched both within their own organization and by the partnership itself to understand how their internal goals aligned (or not) with the emerging focus, goals, geography, and funding opportunities of the larger partnership. Organizations that had recently gone through strategic planning found it easier to demonstrate overlapping interests and alignment with the broader partnership and justify their participation, for some a leadership role.

Tribal Engagement

Tribes played an important role in most partnerships – taking on various roles from leaders to core partners to promising new partners. Non-tribal partners described the learning curve of understanding the complexities of tribal interests, geography, internal organization, etc. Although non-tribal partners often assumed tribes had substantial capacity to participate, the geographic scale and breadth of tribal interests were significantly greater than most partners. With a little extra support, tribes with limited capacity could more fully participate, for example commenting on planning documents, participating in joint fundraising, or getting technical training to more fully participate in project implementation. Also, the complexities of intertribal relations were difficult for non-tribal partners to understand. Developing governance documents, such as an MOU, was seen as a valuable opportunity to respectfully learn about and address partner needs, including tribal perspectives.

Capacity to Partner

A common theme among small groups, such as watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, land owner associations, and in some cases tribes, was limited capacity to participate. These groups expressed sincere appreciation for the capacity support provided by OWEB, while acknowledging that the collaborative work has taken more time than anticipated. If more capacity support were available, these small groups could more fully engage in the partnership's work.

Stakeholder Engagement

In general, it was difficult for partnerships to involve land owners, agricultural interests, and industrial forest interests at least during development of the strategic action plan. In a few cases, this was possible where well-organized land owner associations existed or where ranchers or farmers participated directly, for example as soil and water conservation district board members. In other cases, core partners worked diligently to reach out through personal networks to get some level of input from these interest groups. Most partnerships anticipated more success with engaging these interest groups once the plan was completed and the work shifted toward implementation.



Centralized Resources

GIS and IT are critical technical resources, most importantly for data analysis and planning, for example to integrate climate scenarios into prioritization frameworks, but also creating maps for outreach. GIS services are difficult for small organizations and even some partnerships to provide, and consultants are expensive. Some partnerships have had success with fee-for-service agreements, where the services of a GIS specialist could be shared among partners. Others relied on federal agency partners to provide GIS services. A few partners suggested that it would be extremely valuable if OWEB could provide GIS services at a regional level that could be broadly accessed.

Transitioning from Planning to Implementation

As partnerships anticipated the transition from planning to implementation, partners described feeling nervous, awkward, and excited. A common sentiment was expressed that if planning moves too slowly or if implementation funding lags too much after the plan is complete, partners may stop showing up, and the collective effort may lose momentum. Part of the awkwardness of transitioning to implementation is that partners are expected to “put their project ideas in the hopper” and accept that the list of prioritized projects may not include their own at the top of the list.

“Once we start having implementation money and ranking projects, it will take a different tone for the partnership. That will be challenging as the partnership changes.”

Many people felt this shift toward broad-scale collaboration wouldn't have been possible without funding for facilitators who can encourage a diversity of partners to feel comfortable participating, especially smaller organizations and younger professionals who at times have felt overpowered by well-funded organizations and senior professionals. Some partnerships selected internal facilitators, while others hired external facilitators – benefits and risks to both approaches were discussed.

Partners also found themselves caught in the transition between planning and implementation and faced with new decisions that represented uncharted territory, for example hiring a partnership coordinator or launching a partnership website before long-term funding was secured. A modest funding commitment could go far to bridge the gap between an intensive planning effort that creates the scaffolding for collaboration and the ability to attract long-term implementation funding to build out the partnership in earnest.

Diversified Fundraising

Diversifying fundraising strategies was highlighted as a critical path to get more capacity for continued partnership coordination and also larger grants to more effectively advance restoration at a large scale. Strategies to diversify funding were discussed by some



partnerships, but many smaller organizations haven't had the capacity to explore other options or invest in fundraising beyond what they already do. The promise of a collaborative model of watershed restoration is that there would be centralized leadership and resources to do fundraising on behalf of the whole to distribute to partners. However, partners expressed uncertainties, concerns, and fears about how this would affect individual fundraising and how funds might be distributed. Concerns were also expressed that there are only so many potential funding opportunities for this type of work, and over time, more funding may be concentrated in partnerships and high capacity organizations.

How can OWEB improve and innovate the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) program to support high performing, resilient partnerships?

Funders have played a prominent role in how these partnerships have come together, including the focus and scope of the partnership. In many cases, partners cited the Capacity Building FIP grants, which supported facilitators, staff capacity, and consultants, as the tipping point that made the shift toward collaboration possible. In other cases, partners leveraged funding from other “anchor funders” and were able to deliver a “higher quality, seamless product” because of the Capacity Building FIP grants. Partners expressed universal appreciation for OWEB's flexibility allowing modifications to the timeline, scope, and strategic action plan template relative to partner needs.

“So far this grant has worked very well. I think the secret to this success is flexibility at OWEB. Had OWEB led these grants with hard and fast prescriptions, I think success would be much lower.”

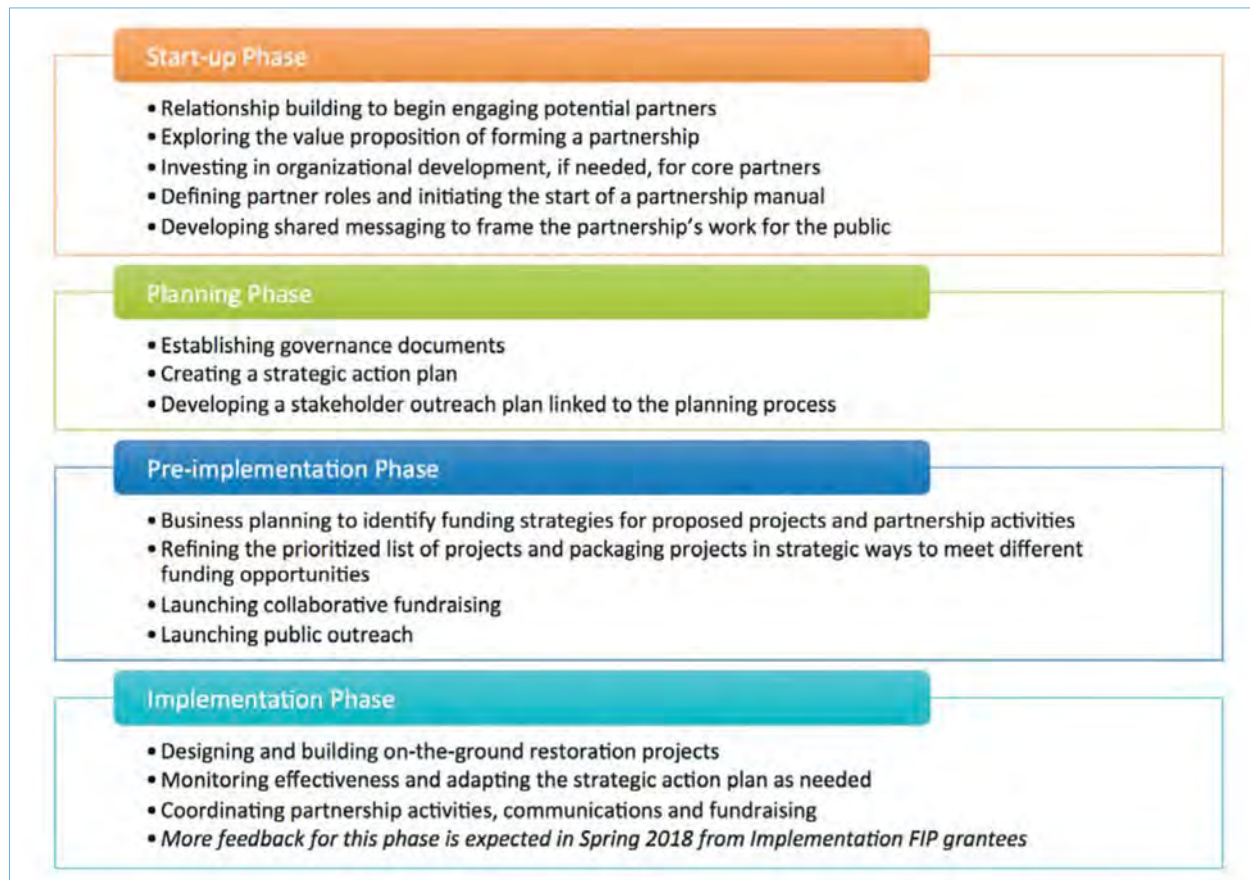
Suggested Four Phases of Partnership Support

As partners reflected on their progress with planning and looked ahead to their goals for implementation, several interesting suggestions surfaced across the partnerships that together paint the picture of how the FIP program could better support resilient partnerships through four phases of partnership support. Specifically, suggestions emphasized the need for more relationship building and organizational development upfront before technical planning began and more capacity to refine the prioritized project list and diversify fundraising strategies to more fully prepare for implementation.

“FIP or no FIP we're going to use our plan to leverage more money. The leverage is the plan. The better the plan the better the leverage. We don't have our plan fleshed out to the level that I would like. I would like to say, ‘We have these anchor habitats. Here's what your money will buy you, and this is what we can do. Here is why it matters, and here are the projects you can be involved in.’”



Suggested Four Phases of Partnership Support



The pre-implementation phase in particular seems to be a missing link in the current structure of the Focused Investment Partnership Program. Once the partnerships complete the Capacity Building FIP grants, they are eager to find substantial enough implementation funding to justify continued investment of time and effort in the partnership. Most partnerships are strategically focused on developing a competitive Implementation FIP proposal, despite the reality that the Implementation FIP grant is highly competitive and open to all partnerships in the state.

“We would definitely continue on and look for other funding if we didn’t get an Implementation FIP grant. But it would definitely help! Since we are investing a lot of our time and effort in defining what our FIP proposal would look like, it would be a shame if we didn’t get that funding source.”

Most partnerships will not be able to get an Implementation FIP grant because of the small number of grants open to all partnerships in the state, and so a key step in supporting the resiliency of these partnerships is to provide support for them to develop a business plan that would identify a mix of potential private and public funding sources. This would allow

a partnership to layout their work plans along different timelines and pace themselves according to the potential sources of available funds.

A question that requires more discussion is whether these newly strengthened collaborative partnerships will attract new investment for restoration in the state – potentially yes especially if restoration goals are linked more broadly with economic development – or whether this approach will simply concentrate existing investments in more focused geographies and activities. If there is a chance that funding in the state will stay the same or decrease, a measure of caution is wise to avoid encouraging the growth of too many collaborative partnerships if implementation funds are not likely.

Communications and Outreach Investments Linked to Strategic Action Planning

Several partners acknowledged the limitations of a highly technical strategic action plan relative to their goals for stakeholder outreach and the community support needed for project implementation. Suggestions for future investments in communications and outreach linked to the strategic action plan included: **studies on the economic value of restoration and why it should matter to people, clear messaging from these studies to launch a state-wide campaign** that could be tailored at the local level, and **general capacity for relationship building**, particularly local leaders and influencers with a history of skepticism toward government.

More Than One Way to Be Strategic in “Moving the Needle” for Restoration

OWEB’s two restoration funding programs – the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) program and the open solicitation program – can be used strategically to respond to different types of opportunities. They have the potential to be complementary if they are appropriately linked and the details are clearly explained to potential grantees.

Similarly, within partnerships, there are different views about what’s most strategic to “move the needle” for watershed restoration. Partners that push for the biggest environmental win tend to rely on a purely scientific approach to prioritization that makes a clear case for specific geographies and restoration activities, which is a good match for the FIP program. Partners that operate with a “restoration through relationships” approach, which some refer to as opportunistic, tend to fit well with the open solicitation program. The latter approach may have more modest environmental wins initially, but this can build trust among potentially skeptical land owners. Through a “neighbor-to-neighbor approach,” one private land owner may turn from a restoration skeptic to a champion, and as a result, an initially modest environmental win can create positive waves of opportunity throughout a basin that can lead to increasingly strategic environmental wins over the long-term.



More discussion is needed to understand how best to link the Implementation FIP and open solicitation programs – or not – to support different paths to long-term restoration. Also, more support within the partnerships to navigate these differences could facilitate the development of prioritization frameworks that better reflect the diverse partners and constituencies represented by the strategic action plans. The value of respecting these differences and working to find common ground for long-term restoration cannot be underestimated.

Appreciation for Learning

From across the partnerships, people expressed appreciation for OWEB’s investment in this Partnership Learning Project to invite early feedback from grantees with a willingness to apply learning to the next evolution of the Focused Investment Partnership Program. Most partnerships also expressed an interest in repeating the survey, interviews, and observations at some point in the future to highlight their progress and any additional feedback that might emerge after more experience as a partnership. They also expressed an interest in future opportunities for peer-to-peer sharing across partnerships.





Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: June 26, 2018
Title: Shared Monitoring Needs and Addressing Predation
Prepared By: Steve Martin, Keith Dublanica and Justin Bush

Summary

This memo summarizes the salmon recovery monitoring programs supported by the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), provides an overview of predation as a key threat to salmon recovery, and notes a new invasive species lurking just upstream with devastating potential impact to salmon recovery in the Columbia River system.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Salmon Recovery Monitoring Programs as funded through 10% of PCSRF Award Overview

Background

As with every recipient of federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds (PCSRF), Washington dedicates at least 10% of its grant award (approximately \$2 million per year) to monitoring. The approach to monitoring has evolved over the past twenty years to an approach that supports three primary monitoring efforts: 1) status and trends monitoring (also known as Fish in/Fish out monitoring); 2) intensively monitored watersheds (IMWs); and 3) reach-scale project effectiveness monitoring.

Status and Trends (Fish in – Fish out) Monitoring

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) monitors specific index streams statewide. The SRFB provides funding to support approximately 6% of the overall budget for statewide status and trends monitoring. The principal investigators for this monitoring utilize a robust sampling regime and framework where juvenile salmon out migrants and returning adult spawning salmon are tracked. The subsequent data analysis contributes to extrapolations of fish distribution and abundance to other tributaries. The Department of Fish and Wildlife provides annual reporting to the SRFB's Monitoring Panel, which then reviews the monitoring process and results. The successful consistency and continuity of this program is due to the diligent expertise of the program principal investigators and their utilization of quality assurance and quality control protocols and methodology.

The principal investigators provide comprehensive detail and rationale in their supporting presentations and documentation that includes peer-reviewed journals produced from the decade-plus of monitoring. They are encouraged to offer suggestions of how to better enhance the program and to increase communicating the results.

Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMWs)

IMWs involve monitoring an entire watershed, along with a “paired” control or reference watershed, to see if the watershed-wide investments in restoration projects are having an impact. This allows comparisons of responses to specific habitat treatments that include monitoring of water quality, riparian cover, substrate, fish presence, distribution, abundance and productivity. The watersheds were selected over a decade ago for their particular and unique geomorphologic traits. They are frequently referred to as an experimental design, or Before-After / Control Impact (BACI) study. One site is left alone while an adjacent has received treatment. The changes in time to the habitat are monitored. There are three IMWs in the Puget Sound Region, one in the Lower Columbia Region, and one in the Snake River Region.

Reach –Scale Project Effectiveness (PE)

Reach –scale project effectiveness monitors nine categories of project effectiveness over more than a decade of sampling. The categories of projects monitored include: instream structures, riparian cover, floodplain/off channel, diversion screening, livestock exclusion and fish passage, among others.

Both SRFB and OWEB entered an interstate agreement for one component of project effectiveness monitoring, specifically the livestock exclusion category, with the Oregon sites being included in the Washington process in order to enjoy economies of scale and to maintain consistency in the sampling protocol.

Project effectiveness sampling, currently conducted by Cramer Fish Sciences, is scheduled to end this year, with a synthesis document of the previous ten years of the program due at the end of this calendar year by the contractor. The SRFB (with advice from the monitoring panel) will decide if it will continue with a subsequent phase and scope of effectiveness monitoring (including what categories should be included).

A workshop is scheduled for later this summer to address potential modifications to the program, including options for economies of scale, remote sensing and stakeholder interest. Another collaborative effort with OWEB, similar to that performed last year for the livestock exclusion category, would be a good topic for discussion.

SRFB Monitoring Panel

The SRFB Monitoring Panel was established in 2013 and has been charged with providing an expert panel for objective review of the SRFB-funded monitoring investments. The panel meets on a regular basis specific to the major monitoring categories, providing desk-top reviews and site visits with principal investigators when essential to the process. The panel informs the SRFB with recommendations to improve the monitoring program.

Predation – a Threat to Salmon, Orcas and Fishers

Predation in an Altered Ecosystem

Salmon and predators evolved together for eons in their natural habitat. Unfortunately the natural habitat has been altered with physical, chemical and biological factors that threaten salmon and give predators a competitive edge. This has a huge potential to compromise salmon recovery investments. Emerging data, due largely to recent technology, is revealing alarmingly high and increasing rates of predation on salmon by predatory fish, birds, and marine mammals. Floats, buoys, bulkheads, docks, bridges, culverts, dams, artificial islands, dikes, and the list goes on, are offering predators a competitive advantage because they: (1) funnel large numbers of salmon into narrow areas; (2) provide ambush cover for predators; (3) provide

haul out/resting/breeding sites for predators; and (4) reduce the abundance of alternative prey for the predators. Climate change is certain to make things worse. Near term management of predators while we work to address these factors will be critical to our efforts to recover salmon and the Southern Resident Killer Whales that depend upon them.

Northern Pike – An Invasive Species at the Door Step

Washington State agencies and Native American Tribes are working together to combat an increasing and alarming problem that threatens twenty years of state investment in salmon recovery--totaling over \$700 million in Washington alone. The invasive northern pike (*Esox Lucius*) is an apex predatory fish, preying on any finfish that will fit in their mouths. Since the early 2000s, northern pike have been spreading from Montana and Idaho rivers downstream through the Columbia River System's non-anadromous waters above Grand Coulee Dam. Alarmingly, they have reached Grand Coulee Dam and threaten anadromous waters downstream. While much is being done to prevent further spread within Washington, there is an urgent need for a cooperative effort at multiple scales between Oregon and Washington to address this issue. There is a unique opportunity to fully prevent the spread and damages to the shared resources and investments of Oregon and Washington. The Executive Coordinator of the Washington Invasive Species Council, will provide an overview of the problem and opportunities to work together with the Washington and Oregon Invasive Species Councils.

More information:

- *The website below has additional information and all of the summary reports for Northern Pike suppression: https://wdfw.wa.gov/ais/esox_lucius/*
- *King 5 News feature briefing on the situation at Lake Roosevelt: <https://youtu.be/co2xlVzAtLE>.*
- *Learn more about the Oregon Invasive Species Council by visiting: <https://www.oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org/>.*
- *Learn more about the Washington Invasive Species Council by visiting: <https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/>*



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator
SUBJECT: OWEB's 20th Anniversary Celebration and Broad Awareness Campaign
June 26, 2018 Joint OWEB/SRFB Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an overview of OWEB's 20th Anniversary Celebration and broad awareness campaign.

II. Background

In 1998, Ballot Measure 66 was passed by nearly 70% of Oregon voters. The measure dedicated the 15% of lottery revenues to support parks, and salmon and watersheds, with 7.5% going to State Parks and 7.5% supporting work to improve native fish and wildlife habitat and water quality. In 1999 OWEB was created to manage the 7.5% of the Lottery revenues dedicated to restoring watershed health.

In 2019, OWEB will celebrate 20 years of providing grants to help Oregonians take care of local streams, rivers, wetlands, and natural areas. This campaign ties directly to the first priority in OWEB's draft strategic plan – broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds. As a part of that priority, OWEB, working with Oregon Lottery, watershed councils, SWCDs, land trusts, and others, will tell the stories of the people, places, and partnerships that make Oregon's Conservation ethic unique.

III. Broad Awareness Campaign

OWEB serves as an information source for partners as they carry messages to their stakeholders about the importance of healthy watersheds to all Oregonians. As a part of this campaign, OWEB and its partners are developing resources for local stakeholders to help them highlight both conservation actions and the people impacted by those actions. Oregon Lottery has led training for local stakeholders to help them better work with media and use social media more effectively, as well as coordinating press releases to share the stories of our local partners.

Beginning this fall and continuing through 2019, OWEB and partners will tell the stories of the people and places that make Oregon's conservation ethic unique, while showing gratitude to all Oregonians, who have supported this work since OWEB's inception.

IV. Recommendation

This report is for informational purposes only.



Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: June 26, 2018

Title: Communication and Outreach Strategies

Prepared By: Steve Martin, Executive Coordinator, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

Summary

This memo summarizes Washington's communication and outreach strategies about salmon recovery.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Request for Decision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Request for Direction |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Briefing |

Background and context

Agency-wide Communications Plan

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) developed a 5-year, agency-wide, multi-board communications plan, which began in 2013. The plan has three main goals, the first of which is relevant to this memo:

1. Build support for RCO's missions of salmon recovery, land conservation, recreation, and invasive species management.

To focus on the mission of salmon recovery, the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO), which is a program within the Recreation and Conservation Office, in conjunction with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (Board) commissioned the development of a stakeholder-engaged communications and fundraising plan.

Salmon Recovery Communications Plan

The Board and GSRO hired a consultant to develop a communications plan in 2014 and update it in 2016. The consultant developed a plan, informed by our stakeholders, which identified several key messages with four priority actions to help get those messages communicated to the public, elected officials, and federal agencies.

Key Messages

- Salmon bind us to this region and to one another.
- Investments in salmon recovery provide multiple benefits.
- We are shaping our own futures: salmon recovery is locally designed and led.
- Salmon are in trouble.

- Restoring salmon is working, but there is much more to do.
- Time to step up and make good on our investments.
- Salmon are ours to save.

Priority Actions

The four priority actions are as follows:

- Improve internal network communications
- Strengthen the capacity of the regions to lead
- Build relationships that extend our reach
- Create and use effective messages and tools

The first goal of improving our internal network communications focuses on creating a forum for all the salmon recovery partners to identify and communicate shared statewide priorities. The idea is that if all the partners are speaking with the same voice, our salmon recovery message will be amplified to the public and to the funders. The Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet) was created a few years ago to fill this purpose. It meets regularly.

The second goal of “strengthening the capacity of the regions to lead” recognizes that regional organizations are essential resources and conveners for our partners in recovery. The work under this goal is about helping regions, lead entities, and others synchronize their priorities and customize local message. To that end, the Board has provided funding to each region to develop and customize communications plans.

The third goal is about building relationships to sustain the long-term commitment required for salmon recovery. Part of the work in this goal is to build social media, online, and earned media forums where salmon recovery partners can share their stories of success. RCO has just hired a part-time communications specialist, who will begin to tackle this work.

The final goal of creating effective messages and tools is about creating info graphics, online stories, briefing papers, videos, etc. and unifying those through a common look and feel. The idea is to have tools that can be used easily by all the partners so we speak with one voice, amplifying the salmon recovery message.

Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet)

All across Washington there is a network of salmon recovery partners who are working to implement the recovery plans. Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEG’s), Lead Entities, Conservation Districts, Tribes, state agencies, and nonprofit organizations, just to mention a few, are hard at work developing proposals for high priority projects identified in the recovery plans. This network is known as the Salmon Recovery Network, or SRNet. SRNet is a forum where members can work together to build understanding and identify shared priorities for action. Members are able to speak to others with a unified and mutually-supported voice and collaborate at each organizational level (watershed, Lead Entity, region, statewide, etc). The Network develops and supports long term funding strategies for salmon recovery implementation to ensure sufficient funding for the human and organizational capacity to effectively implement salmon recovery. They review and discuss policies and programs related to salmon recovery and often provide their perspectives and recommendations as a unified voice.



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Agenda

June 27

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Port of Cascade Locks
Marine Park Pavilion
395 SW Portage Rd.
Cascade Locks, OR 97014
Directions: <https://goo.gl/maps/XH76P94vc4M2>

Business Meeting – 8:00 a.m.

For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. The board may also elect to take an item out of order in certain circumstances. During the public comment periods (Agenda Items D and L), 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 3 to 5 minutes.*** Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after June 20, 2018 will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

A. Board Member Comments (8:05 a.m.)

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 (8:45 a.m.)

The minutes of the April 24-25, 2018 meeting in Frenchglen will be presented for approval. *Action item.*

C. Board Subcommittee Updates (8:50 a.m.)

Representatives from board subcommittees will provide updates on subcommittee topics to the full board. *Information item.*

D. Public Comment (9:10 a.m.)

This time is reserved for general public comment, and public comment associated with the OWEB Strategic Plan, as well as other matters before the board.

E. OWEB Strategic Plan –Adoption and Implementation Grants (9:30 a.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will join Principal Consultant Steve Patty and Associate Consultant Jessamyn Luiz with Dialogues in Action to seek board approval on OWEB's new strategic plan. Following board action on the strategic plan, Director Loftsgaarden will request the board include a new line in its spending plan to implement components of the strategic plan. *Action item.*

F. Technical Assistance Grants- Administrative Rules (11:00 a.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will present administrative rules for the technical assistance grants for board consideration and approval. Public comment associated with this item may be heard as part of general public comment. However, because this item has already been the subject of a formal public hearing and a comment period, further public testimony may only be taken upon changes made to the item since the original public comment period, or upon the direct request of the board members in order to obtain additional information. *Action item.*

G. Executive Director's Update (11:50 a.m.)

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

H. 2017-2019 Spending Plan Additions (1:00 p.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden, Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy, and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho will request the board approve receipt of funds from the:

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries' Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund,
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program,
- Natural Resources Conservation Service and Oregon Department of Forestry for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, and
- Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission funding for monitoring efforts in the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed.

Action item.

I. 2017-2019 Council Capacity Awards- Lower Columbia Watershed Council (1:30 p.m.)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff will request board action on the second year of funding for the Lower Columbia Watershed Council's 2017-2019 Council Capacity grant. *Action item.*

J. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) – Upper Grande Ronde Request (1:50 p.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer will request the board carry-forward funds associated with the Upper Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership's 2015-2017 Implementation FIP award. *Action item.*

K. Land Acquisition Grant Program – 2017 Portfolio Monitoring and Rulemaking (2:10 p.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Acquisitions Coordinator Miriam Hulst will present to the board a summary of 2017 Land Acquisition portfolio monitoring, and request the board authorize rulemaking for Land Acquisition grants. *Action item.*

L. Public Comment (2:50 p.m.)

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

M. OWEB Agency Request Budget (3:05 p.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will request the board's approval of budget proposals that will be included in OWEB's Agency Request Budget to the Governor for the 2019-2021 biennium. *Action item.*

N. FIP Update – Partnership Learning Project Phase II (3:35 p.m.)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff and Jennifer Arnold of Reciprocity Consulting will provide an update on the Partnership Learning Project that is being led by the Bonneville Environmental Foundation. The update will focus on the lessons learned from evaluation of the six Implementation FIPs. *Information item.*

O. Other Business (4:35 p.m.)

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

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 18 members. Of these, 11 are voting members and seven 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 **6 voting members**. General business requires a majority of **all** voting members to pass a resolution (not just those present), so general business resolutions require affirmative votes of **at least 6 voting members**. Typical resolutions include adopting, amending, or appealing a rule, providing staff direction, etc. These resolutions cannot include a funding decision.

Action on Grant Awards

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

Public Testimony

The board encourages public comment on any agenda item.

General public comment periods will be held on *Wednesday, April at approximately 9:10 a.m. and 2:50 p.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 3 to 5 minutes.* Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after *June 20, 2018* will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

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 or send an e-mail to darika.barnes@oregon.gov. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise Darika Barnes 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*
Vacant, *Environmental Quality Commission*
Bruce Buckmaster, *Fish and Wildlife Commission member*
Vacant, *Board of Forestry*
Meg Reeves, *Water Resources Commission*
Jason Robison, *Public (tribal)*
Gary Marshall, *Public*
Will Neuhauser, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Randy Labbe, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Jan Lee, *Public*
Liza Jane McAlister, *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*
Paul Henson, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Contact Information

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OWEB Executive Director – Meta Loftsgaarden

meta.loftsgaarden@oregon.gov

OWEB Assistant to Executive Director and Board – Darika Barnes

darika.barnes@oregon.gov

503-986-0181

2018 Board Meeting Schedule

January 30-31, in Florence
April 24-25, in Frenchglen
June 26-27, Stevenson, WA and Cascade Locks
October 16-17, Gold Beach

2019 Board Meeting Schedule

January 15-16, North Coast TBD
April 16-17, in TBD
July 16-17, in Klamath Falls
October 15-16, TBD

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

www.oregon.gov/OWEB.

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

April 24, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting

Frenchglen School Gymnasium

39235 OR Highway 205

Frenchglen, OR 97736

MINUTES Some agenda items are discussed out of order.

(Audio time stamps reference recording at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFTU1--G4k>).

OWEB Members Present

Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Furfey, Rosemary
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Labbe, Randy
Lee, Jan
Marshall, Gary
Masterson, Laura
McAlister, Liza Jane
Neuhauser, Will
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason

ABSENT:

Alvarado, Ron
Hollen, Debbie
Stangl, Kathy

VACANT:

Environmental Quality Commission
Board of Forestry

OWEB Staff Present

Barnes, Darika
Ciannella, Greg
Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Duzik, Katie
Greer, Sue
Grenbemer, Mark
Hartstein, Eric
Hatch, Audrey
Leierendecker, Karen
Loftsgaarden, Meta
McCarthy, Jillian
Redon, Liz
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

Others Present

Beamer, Kelley
Bulay, Jason
Coordes, Regan
Houston, Ryan
Keith, John
Martino, Amanda
McMahon, Crystal
Morford, Shawn
Morris, Christo
Suter-Goold, Marty

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Co-Chair Randy Labbe.

A. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:01:10)

Board members provided updates on issues and activities related to their respective geographic regions and/or from the state and federal natural resource agencies they represent.

B. Review and Approval of Minutes (Audio = 0:37:00)

Minutes of the January 30-31, 2018 board meeting in Florence were presented to the board for approval.

Gary Marshall moved the board approve the minutes from the January 30-31, 2018 meeting in Frenchglen. The motion was seconded by Jan Lee. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 0:37:35)

C. Co-Chair Election (Audio = 0:37:53)

Co-Chair Will Neuhauser reminded the board of its established practice of having a co-chairs leadership model with staggered annual elections. He informed the board that Randy Labbe's seat was open for consideration and that Labbe was interested in continuing to serve as co-chair for a two-year term. He asked for other interest and nominations. Liza Jane McAlister nominated Randy Labbe. There were no other nominations.

Liza Jane McAlister moved the board elect Randy Labbe to serve as OWEB Board Co-Chair for a two-year term. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 0:38:55)

D. Board Subcommittee Updates (Audio = 0:39:40)

Rosemary Furfey provided an update on the meetings and activities of the Monitoring subcommittee. Other subcommittees did not have anything to report since the last board meeting.

E. Public Comment (Audio = 0:41:40)

The board was addressed by Jason Bulay and Amanda Martino from the Blue Mountain Land Trust from Walla Walla, WA to provide an overview of their involvement with Oregon partners in the John Day Basin.

Crystal McMahan from the Klamath Lake Land Trust addressed the board with two of her colleagues to thank the board for consideration of their grant applications and to provide a broad overview of their organization's history and activities.

Shawn Morford from the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, Kelly Beamer from the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, and John Keith from the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts came before the board representing the Oregon Conservation Partnership to discuss the activities of their individual organizations and their joint activities, including the CONNECT Conference and a meeting of each of their boards and the Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network.

Marty Suter-Goold from the Harney Soil and Water Conservation District addressed the board to welcome everyone to their county and to thank the board and staff for their efforts in the community there.

F. Small Grant Program (Audio = 0:59:55:)

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein requested board approval on proposed administrative rule amendments to OWEB's Small Grant Program. In addition to raising the cap, per the board vote at the July 2017 meeting, Hartstein explained that staff identified other areas in the administrative rules that were being recommended for amendment.

Co-Chair Will Neuhauser moved the board approve the Small Grant Program administrative rules as amended in Attachment B in the Small Grant Program Administrative Rule Amendments staff report. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:18:10)

G. Fall 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering (Audio = 1:19:14)

G-1. Request for Increased Spending Plan Funding (Audio = 1:19:27)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Grant Program Manager Eric Williams advised the board that, during the 2018 Legislative Session, Lottery revenues had increased to a level that resulted in OWEB receiving an additional \$5 million in expenditure limitation for Measure 76 Lottery funding. They proposed options to the board for investing a portion of those funds in the current spending plan, including an increase to the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) line item, and reserving a portion of revenues for the next biennium. Also proposed was the addition of a new 'Strategic Plan Implementation Grant' category to the spending plan, which will be brought before the board in June.

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board increase the open solicitation monitoring line item by \$350,000 and the acquisitions line item by \$2 million, in the 2017-2019 spending plan. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:34:25)

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board increase the CREP line item of the 2017-2019 spending plan by \$150,000 and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of July 1, 2017. The motion was seconded by Gary Marshall. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:35:07)

G-2. Fall 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Funding Recommendations (Audio = 1:37:01)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and OWEB Regional Program Representatives came before the board to make a presentation on the Fall 2017 Open Solicitation grant offering, and asked the board to consider grant applications submitted for restoration, technical assistance, monitoring, and stakeholder engagement projects.

Williams provided background information on the grant offering and explained the review team process, noting how project evaluation criteria under five main categories (proposal clarity, technical soundness, watershed context, capacity of applicant, and cost effectiveness) factor into the regional review team process for recommending projects. OWEB's regional program representatives provided presentations on projects within their geographic areas, five of which highlighted one of the evaluation criteria categories with the sixth describing the ranking process.

Region 1: Katie Duzik, Regional Program Representative for the North Coast, presented projects from Region 1 with a focus on proposal clarity. (Audio = 1:48:40)

Region 6: Sue Greer, Regional Program Representative for the Mid-Columbia Basin, presented projects from Region 6 with a focus on technical soundness. (Audio = 2:01:40)

Region 5: Karen Leiendecker, Regional Program Representative for Eastern Oregon, presented projects from Region 5 with a focus on cost effectiveness. (Audio = 2:09:40)

Region 2: Mark Grenbemer, Regional Program Representative for Southwest Oregon, presented projects from Region 2 with a focus on watershed context. (Audio = 2:28:45)

Region 4: Greg Ciannella, Regional Program Representative for Central Oregon, presented projects from Region 4 projects a focus on capacity of applicant. (Audio = 2:51:20)

Region 3: Liz Redon, Regional Program Representative for the Willamette Basin, presented projects from Region 3 with a focus on how regional review teams arrive at a ranked list of projects for staff to propose to the board for funding. (Audio = 3:02:00)

PUBLIC COMMENT: (Audio = 3:12:25)

Christo Morris from the Powder Basin Watershed Council came before the board to appeal that the recommended project application 218-5055, which fell below the recommended funding line, be considered for funding.

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board approve the staff funding recommendations as described in Attachment C to the Fall 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering staff report with the following corrections: award \$137,339 for grant application #218-3026; and award \$66,458 for grant application #218-6046. The motion was seconded by Meg Reeves. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:34:15)

Meg Reeves moved the board approve funding for grant application #218-5055 in Attachment C to the Fall 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering staff report with these conditions: "In coordination with DEQ, the applicant will shift sites lower in the basin on private ground to better understand management activities; and clarify methods to operate continuous water temperature loggers, conduct quality assurance and quality control for data, and appropriate management of data over three years." The motion was seconded by Laura Masterson. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:35:50)

H. Land Acquisition Grant Awards (Audio = 3:43:00)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams discussed with the board a new team-approach by OWEB staff to land acquisition application review and project management. He then requested board action on land acquisition grant applications that were received during the Fall 2017 grant offering.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (Audio = 4:11:48)

Kelley Beamer from the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) came before the board to talk about the role of voluntary land protection in terms of meeting COLT's goals for the long-term protection and restoration of native fish and wildlife habitat, securing public benefits on private lands, and serving local needs.

Co-Chair Will Neuhauser moved the board award funding for land acquisition grants as specified in Attachment A to the Land Acquisition staff report, with the project-specific conditions detailed in Attachment C to the Land Acquisition Grant Awards staff report. The motion was seconded by Jan Lee. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 4:19:11)

I. Water Acquisition Grant Awards (Audio = 4:20:15)

Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy came before the board to request board action for water acquisition grant applications that were received during the Fall 2017 grant offering.

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board award funding for water acquisition grants as specified in Table 1 of the Water Acquisition Grant Awards staff report. The motion was seconded by Meg Reeves. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 4:36:25)

L. Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring (EM) Funding Requests (Audio = 4:37:00)

L-1: Focused Investment Partnership Programmatic EM (4:37:50)

Deputy Director Renee Davis came before the board to request funding to support programmatic effectiveness monitoring work for Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP), as well as funding to support Bonneville Environmental Foundation's ongoing work related to FIP effectiveness monitoring.

Co-Chair Will Neuhauser moved the board award \$623,750 from the Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan to support grants to fill priority gaps for Implementation FIPs, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of April 25, 2018. The motion was seconded by Gary Marshall. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 5:06:30)

Co-Chair Will Neuhauser moved the board award \$126,250 from the Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan to continue Bonneville Environmental Foundation's work with OWEB on FIP monitoring by increasing grant 216-8390-12951, as described in Section II of the FIP Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring Funding Request staff report. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. (Audio = 5:07:20)

L-2: Open Solicitation Effectiveness Monitoring (5:08:15)

Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch requested the board approve funding to support open solicitation programmatic effectiveness monitoring to help OWEB and grantees combine quantitative data with restoration examples around the state to better 'tell the restoration story.'

Co-Chair Will Neuhauser moved the board award \$200,000 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan to support grants for an initial slate of retrospective analyses to tell the restoration story, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of April 25, 2018. The motion was seconded by Gary Marshall. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 5:26:20)

L-3: Conservation Effectiveness Partnership Programmatic EM (5:27:20)

Deputy Director Renee Davis came before the board to request funding to support programmatic effectiveness monitoring for the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership associated with new work in the Fifteenmile Creek case study.

Co-Chair Will Neuhauser moved the board award \$15,725 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan to complete data analyses and update the Fifteenmile Creek case study for the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of April 25, 2018. The motion was seconded by Meg Reeves. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 5:33:50)

M. Organization Collaboration Grant Awards (Audio = 5:35:15)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff requested the board approve funding of an Organization Collaboration grant application from Rickreall and Glenn Gibson watershed councils.

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board award the Organization Collaboration grant as described in Attachment A in the Organization Collaboration Grant Awards staff report. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed unanimously.

(Audio = 5:44:50)

Q. Other Business – Coastal Wetlands Grant (Audio = 5:45:35)

Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy came before the board to request approval for OWEB to receive one grant award from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2018 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program for the Winter Lake Restoration and Planting Project.

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board approve receipt of funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the 2018 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds through the appropriate agreements with an award date of April 25, 2018 in support of the Winter Lake Restoration and Planting Project. The motion was seconded by Meg Reeves. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 5:51:30)

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. by Co-Chair Will Neuhauser. (Audio = 5:54:30)

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

April 25, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting

Frenchglen School Gymnasium

39235 OR Highway 205

Frenchglen, OR 97736

MINUTES Some agenda items are discussed out of order.

(Audio time stamps reference recording at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfyKE1DYLGc>).

OWEB Members Present

Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Furfey, Rosemary
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Labbe, Randy
Lee, Jan
Marshall, Gary
Masterson, Laura
McAlister, Liza Jane
Neuhauser, Will
Reeves, Meg

ABSENT:

Alvarado, Ron
Hollen, Debbie
Robison, Jason
Stangl, Kathy

VACANT:

Environmental Quality Commission
Board of Forestry

OWEB Staff Present

Barnes, Darika
Ciannella, Greg
Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Duzik, Katie
Hartstein, Eric
Hatch, Audrey
Leiendecker, Karen
Loftsgaarden, Meta
McCarthy, Jillian
Redon, Liz
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

Others Present

Beamer, Kelley
Coordes, Regan
Houston, Ryan
Keith, John
Maltz, Erica
Morford, Shawn
Patty, Steve
Taylor, Barbara

The meeting was called to reconvene at 8:30 a.m. by Co-Chair Randy Labbe.

J. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Update (Audio =0:00:45)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Grant Program Manager Eric Williams updated the board on the first series of Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (OAHC) meetings in Prineville for program rulemaking. In addition, the commission has discussed succession planning grants rules, and rules for conservation management plans, covenants, and easements. Also discussed was the potential for board members and commission members to meet informally on the Monday prior to the June OWEB Board meeting in Cascade Locks.

K. Initial 2019-2021 Agency Request Budget Presentation (Audio =0:16:45)

Deputy Director Renee Davis updated the board about budget preparation for the 2019 Legislative Session, including submission by OWEB of the final application to NOAA Fisheries on behalf of the State of Oregon for funding under the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. Davis indicated that staff will bring an updated list of packages for inclusion in the 2019-2021 Agency Request Budget for the board's consideration and approval at the June 2018 meeting.

N. Public Comment (Audio =0:49:27)

Erica Maltz, Natural Resources Director for the Burns Paiute Tribe, came before the board to introduce herself, to welcome the board to the Tribe's aboriginal territory, to provide a technical point of contact for the Tribe, and to thank the board for its investment in relationships with Tribal governments and continued partnership on priority projects for the Tribes. At the request of Rosemary Furfey, Maltz provided the board with highlights of current projects that her department is currently spearheading.

O. Strategic Plan (Audio = 53:20)

Dr. Steve Patty from Dialogues in Action joined Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden to seek the board's feedback on the revised strategies and proposed actions in developing OWEB's new strategic plan. Patty reviewed what has been accomplished and the steps taken to arrive at the current set of strategies and actions. Loftsgaarden then reviewed with the board changes made by staff to the prior version, and the board provided additional input.

Loftsgaarden also introduced the concept of the use of grants to partners to assist in the implementation of the strategic plan. She indicated staff would like the board to consider adding a spending plan line item in June 2018 that would allow for investment in this work.

Patty concluded the agenda item by providing next steps and what the board can expect at the June meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Audio = 2:41:00)

Shawn Morford addressed the board to provide her perspective on OWEB's approach to communicating, convening, and implementing parts of the strategic plan. She urged the board to communicate early and often with statewide partners, and provide leadership among foundations involved in voluntary conservation.

P. Executive Director's Update (2:45:05)

P-1: Lower Columbia Watershed Council Update (2:45:30)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff and Region 1 Program Representative Katie Duzik provided an update on the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council's progress towards meeting OWEB's funding requirements associated with the 2017-2019 Council Capacity grant award. Duzik stated the council has already met several of the objectives and have developed a memorandum of understanding. She said they have also met their first funding requirements. Shaff explained the next steps, including an upcoming interview at OWEB with staff and a technical review team, which will lead to a funding recommendation to bring before the board at the June meeting.

P-2: FIP Gathering Update (2:49:17)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff provided an update on the FIP Gathering, held March 13-14, at Menucha Retreat Center, which brought together 42 partners from 17 of the 18 FIPs from around the state for two half-days of sharing, learning, and relationship building.

P-3: Technical Assistance Rulemaking Update (2:50:55)

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein updated the board on technical assistance grant rulemaking. Hartstein explained the progress of the Rules Advisory Committee and the next steps, including presenting a final draft of the rules to the board to consider for adoption at the June 2018 meeting.

P-4: Livestock Exclusion Study Update (2:54:20)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden noted that a copy of the Livestock Exclusion Study was provided to the board as an information item and directed board questions to Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 p.m. by Co-Chair Randy Labbe. (Audio = 2:56:27)

June 27, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting Monitoring Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee Members

Current Chair Alan Henning, Past-Chair Rosemary Furfey, Stephen Brandt, Debbie Hollen, and Jason Robison

Background

The Monitoring Subcommittee is overseeing new work associated with both open solicitation programmatic effectiveness monitoring (EM) and Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) monitoring. They also are advising staff as improvements are made to monitoring grant-making processes.

Summary of Monitoring Subcommittee Work this Quarter

The subcommittee met on May 15, 2018, and discussed the following topics:

- Debrief from the April board meeting – The group discussed next steps from the monitoring-related board actions, including soliciting priority monitoring and/or reporting needs from the Implementation FIPs as follow-up to the FIP progress monitoring framework with Bonneville Environmental Foundation, and identifying the first set of retrospective analyses to begin ‘telling the story’ of OWEB’s restoration investments. The group briefly discussed the coordinated monitoring work anticipated from the strategic plan update.
- Open Solicitation monitoring guidance update process – Staff described how feedback received during the process is being used to make near-term refinements to the monitoring application, the associated guidance to applicants and technical resources to provide to applicants. Over the longer term, additional potential improvements to OWEB’s monitoring grant-making process that were identified through the guidance update process will be cross-walked to strategic plan priorities.
- Monitoring related agenda items for the June 2018 board meeting – Staff briefed the subcommittee about the general structure of the meeting (including the joint day-long session with the State of Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board) and two requests to approve receipt of funding from 1) Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission in support of the Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed, and 2) Oregon Department of Forestry in support of performance tracking of actions under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. Subcommittee members discussed the requests and concluded these are consistent with OWEB’s mission and programs.
- Upcoming discussion topics – Staff noted that discussion topics for upcoming subcommittee meetings will include follow-up on recommendations that were included in literature review regarding tidegate removal and replacement projects that was recently completed by Oregon State University, and framing up the approach OWEB will use to begin monitoring capacity investments, as outlined in the strategic plan.

The subcommittee will meet again on July 24, 2018.

To Be Presented at the June 2018 Board Meeting by:

Rosemary Furfey, Past Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact

Renee Davis, Deputy Director
renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203

June 27, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting Open Solicitation Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee Members

Chair Meg Reeves, Kathy Stangl, Stephen Brandt, Rosemary Furfey

Background

The Open Solicitation subcommittee focuses on issues related to restoration, technical assistance, and stakeholder engagement grants offered through regular solicitations and the small grant program.

Summary of Open Solicitation Subcommittee Work this Quarter

The subcommittee met on June 6 to discuss issues associated with funded irrigation efficiency projects and the potential for protecting water in-stream, following up on the board discussion at the April meeting. The subcommittee invited guests from Oregon Water Resources Department, including Ivan Gall, Field Services Division Administrator, and Becky Williams, Grant Program Coordinator, who provided background on relevant OWRD programs. The subcommittee discussed the following:

- The Water Resources Commission adopted a water measurement strategy in 2000 that determined high priority basins for measuring water use. Within these basins, 2400 significant points of diversion were identified; of the 1800 still in use, about 1100 have measuring devices. It is unclear how many water users are measuring. There is required water use reporting from public entities and private entities with permit conditions, resulting in about 14,000 users submitting data (out of a universe of 80,000 users). OWRD is considering a system to track water use measurement.
- The Allocation of Conserved Water (AOCW) statute, which requires a minimum of 25% of conserved water to be allocated for in-stream use, is the only option available to water users that allows for expanded water use on new land. Potential barriers to using the AOCW program include application fees, processing time, and availability of other options, such as leases, transfers, and programs like FAST that entail commitments not to irrigate during critical low-flow periods.
- Leasing may result in irrigators giving up irrigated acreage because their ability to withdraw water is reduced.

The subcommittee would like to invite OWRD to a future board meeting to further discuss these issues and answer the board's questions.

The subcommittee will meet again on September 27, 2018.

To Be Presented at the June 2018 Board Meeting by:

Meg Reeves, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
eric.williams@oregon.gov or 503-986-0047

June 27, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting Focused Investment Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee Members

Jason Robison, Chair, Ron Alvarado, Bruce Buckmaster, Alan Henning, Paul Henson, Gary Marshall

Background

The Focused Investment Subcommittee focuses on issues related to the Focused Investment Program (FIP), including Development and Implementation FIPs, and the effectiveness of these programs.

Summary of Focused Investment Subcommittee Work this Quarter

The subcommittee met on June 8 and discussed the following topics:

- Partnership Learning Project - Jennifer Arnold from Reciprocity Consulting, provided an update on the Partnership Learning Project, which launched in Fall 2016, completed Part One analyzing Development FIPs, and is now finalizing Part Two on Implementation FIPs. Jennifer will be presenting the Implementation FIP report at the June board meeting. After interviewing and surveying FIP partners, and meeting with each of the six Implementation FIP partnerships, Jennifer presented these findings:
 1. Partnerships are dynamic;
 2. Partnerships are driven by funding and external events;
 3. Efficiency is critical; and
 4. Large, inclusive partnerships are needed for landscape-scale change.
- 2019-2021 Implementation FIP Solicitation Schedule - Staff described the evaluation process for Implementation FIP applications, which are due June 29. Expert review teams for capacity and each of the board-established ecological priorities will provide reviews and ratings for each application; staff will compile the reviews and present them to the FIP Subcommittee and the applicants; the subcommittee will have a call November 2 to ask clarifying questions on the application reviews; and the subcommittee will meet in public session November 7-8 to interview applicants and rank the applications for board consideration in January.
- Status of Current Implementation FIPs - Staff provided status updates on each of the six Implementation FIPs. The subcommittee discussed the need to continue assessing whether the FIPs are achieving ecological shifts and stressed the importance of effective partnerships in achieving ecological goals.
- The subcommittee will meet again on September 14, 2018.

To Be Presented at the June 2018 Board Meeting by:

Jason Robison, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
eric.williams@oregon.gov or 503-986-0047

June 27, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting Operating Capacity Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee Members

Chair Debbie Hollen, Jan Lee, Laura Masterson, and Liza Jane McAlister

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 collaboration grants.

Summary of Monitoring Subcommittee Work this Quarter

The subcommittee met on May 21, and discussed the following topics:

- Review purpose – This was the first meeting of the reorganized Operating Capacity Subcommittee. We reviewed the purpose of the committee and discussed the future meeting schedule and topics.
- Discuss the Lower Columbia River WC – The group discussed the board’s July 2017 funding decision for the Lower Columbia River WC and staff’s work with the council over the last year. Staff then described the evaluation process and reasoning behind the staff funding recommendation. The group also discussed opportunities to capture lessons learned from staff working with the Lower Columbia River WC through this process over the last year. In addition, the subcommittee discussed how to capture lessons learned from the council as it uses a unique staffing structure to fulfill its staffing needs: two contractors working together to help the council implement projects and continue working on organizational development.
- Upcoming discussion topics – Staff noted that discussion topics for upcoming subcommittee meetings will frame up the approach OWEB will use to begin monitoring capacity investments, as outlined in the strategic plan.

The subcommittee will meet again on September 18, 2018, in a joint meeting with the Monitoring Subcommittee.

To Be Presented at the June 2018 Board Meeting by:

Debbie Hollen, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact

Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator
courtney.shaff@oregon.gov or 503-986-0046



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item E-1 – Strategic Plan
June 27, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Following an 18-month process including extensive public engagement, OWEB staff and Dialogues in Action (DIA) will present the final strategic plan for board approval. In addition, staff will initiate conversations with the board around outcome and output measures, strategic plan engagement strategies, and alignment between OWEB's grant offerings and the newly adopted strategic plan.

II. Background

OWEB approved its last strategic plan in 2010 during a time when the agency and its associated funding were expected to sunset in 2015. Soon after, Constitutional Ballot Measure 76 passed in Oregon, making OWEB's funding permanent.

As a result of the shift to permanent funding, the board then undertook an effort in 2012-13 to develop a Long-Term Investment Strategy for granting. The strategy was approved by the board in 2013 and has become the framework by which the board develops and approves its two-year spending plan in support of the strategic plan.

It has been more than eight years since the board approved its last strategic plan, and five years since board approval of the investment strategy.

III. Strategic Plan Process Steps to Date

Who We Are: In January 2017, the board formally initiated its strategic planning process. At this time, both the board and all OWEB staff began developing the "Who We Are" portion of the strategic plan.

Interviews: Also in January, board members and the newly established staff process team members interviewed a range of OWEB stakeholders about their experiences and work with OWEB, each interviewing at least one stakeholder.

Listening Sessions: In March 2017, OWEB staff traveled with Steve Patty from DIA to six locations across Oregon to hold strategic planning listening sessions. In addition, OWEB held one virtual listening session webinar. In total, approximately 80 individuals attended, including grantees, regional review team members, agency partners, and others.

Stakeholder Surveys: In April 2017, surveys were sent broadly to stakeholders and partners to identify what is working well in their interactions with OWEB, and areas for improvement. That information was provided to the board at their June 2017 meeting.

External Advisory Group: In May and June 2017, the board's established External Advisory Group synthesized and expanded on information from interviews, listening sessions, and stakeholder surveys. In October, the group provided their input to the strategy development and they helped to prioritize strategies in January 2018.

Board Strategic Plan Discussions: In January, April, June, July, and October 2017, as well as January 2018 and April 2018, the board met to vet the ideas proposed through the many processes identified above, which has resulted in the final strategic plan for the board's approval (Attachment A).

IV. April Board Meeting Discussion

Strategic Plan Approval: In April 2018, the board provided a series of recommendations for final edits to priorities, strategies, and actions for the plan. Those recommendations have been incorporated, and the board will review and approve the final plan.

Indicators of Progress: OWEB staff, with assistance from DIA, have identified a set of outcome measures tied to priorities and output measures tied to strategies. At the meeting, staff and DIA will review these measures with the board and discuss how future measures will be developed and reported as the plan unfolds (Attachment B).

Engagement Strategy: A new strategic plan provides an opportunity to increase an organization's visibility. DIA and OWEB staff will initiate conversations with the board regarding audiences for the strategic plan, and effective ways to inform those audiences about the plan's implications and opportunities. In addition, many individuals were involved in the plan's development. Staff will share thoughts about how to re-engage those individuals in understanding and helping to communicate the plan's results.

OWEB Granting Portfolio: Over the last eight years, OWEB's granting portfolio has shifted to match board priorities. Staff will introduce information to assist the board in future meetings as they consider how the agency's grant-making can evolve to match the new strategic plan. Attachment C takes two snapshots of OWEB's individual grant programs, at different times. The graphs highlight changes in flexibility, scale of impact, and application process complexity. The charts are not designed to identify one right or wrong approach. A range of grant-making approaches can help OWEB balance its organizational risk across grant types.

V. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve the 2018 OWEB Strategic Plan.

Attachments

- A. OWEB Strategic Plan and Summary
- B. Indicators of Progress
- C. Grant Portfolio Chart



Mission

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

About OWEB

OWEB has funded more than 8,700 grants since 1999, with which Oregonians have restored more than 5,100 miles of streams and have made more than 6,100 miles of habitat accessible for fish. The grants have helped landowners improve more than 1,135,000 upland habitat acres and restore, improve, or create more than 51,000 wetland or estuarine habitat acres. The majority of the funds invested go directly to on-the-ground improvements of land and water such as native plantings, dam removals, irrigation efficiencies, streams and rivers made accessible to fish, and land protected for future generations.

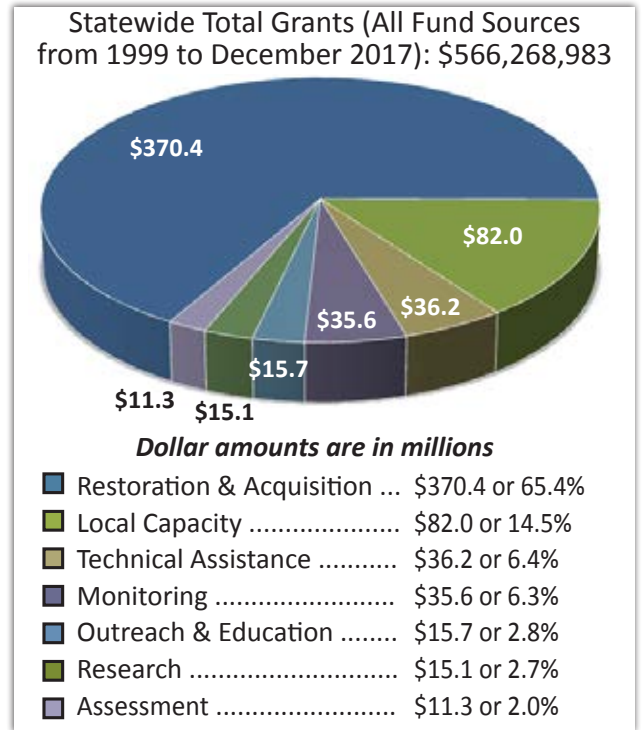
On behalf of the board members and staff of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), we invite you to review our 2018-2028 strategic plan. Based on a year and a half of conversations with partners and grantees, this plan celebrates all we have accomplished together over the last twenty years and sets a course for the next ten.

OWEB, our partners, and our grantees have much to celebrate. With over \$550 million in investments from Lottery, Salmon License Plates, federal and other funds, our grantees have restored 5,100 miles of streams, and improved habitat on over 1.1 million acres in the watersheds above those streams. Coupled with the restoration or creation of 51,000 acres of wetlands and estuaries, these gains support clean water and habitat for Oregonians and the fish and wildlife species that call this state home.

Our current investment portfolio – ranging from our flagship Open Solicitation grants to our newly established Organizational Collaboration grants – provides the foundation to improve the health of our watersheds by investing in people in our local communities. OWEB grants support local community partners to work with farmers, ranchers, forestland owners, and local contractors to provide clean water for Oregonians and healthy habitat for our fish and wildlife.

Our new plan builds on that strong granting foundation. As we look forward to the next ten years, we will focus our efforts, and current and future grant offerings to address the strategic priorities on the following page.

Over the past year of conversations, we have learned many of you share these same priorities, and we hope you will join us in implementing them. As we identify specific actions and measures to track our plan, we will share our progress with you. We look forward to working with you to improve the health of Oregon’s watersheds, and the opportunity to celebrate our successes over the next ten years.



Priorities & Strategies

With extensive input from our stakeholders, OWEB has designed a strategic plan to provide direction for the agency and its investments over the next 10 years.

Priority 1

Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds

Strategies

- Develop and implement broad awareness campaigns and highlight personal stories to tell the economic, restoration and community successes of watershed investments
- Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches

Priority 2

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

Strategies

- Listen, Learn and Gather Information about diverse populations
- Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table
- Develop funding strategies with a lens toward diversity, equity, and inclusion

Priority 3

Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

Strategies

- Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB's past capacity funding
- Champion best approaches to build organizational, community, and partnership capacity
- Continue to catalyze and increase state/federal agency participation in strategic partnerships

Priority 4

Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio

Strategies

- Increase coordination of public restoration investments and develop funding vision
- Seek alignment of common investment areas with private foundations
- Explore creative funding opportunities/partnerships with the private sector
- Partner to design strategies for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources

Priority 5

The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health

Strategies

- Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
- Strengthen engagement with a broad base of landowners
- Enhance the work of partners to increase working lands projects on farm, ranch and forestlands
- Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands
- Develop engagement strategies for owners/managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations

Priority 6

Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

Strategies

- Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts
- Invest in monitoring over the long term
- Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring
- Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners
- Define monitoring priorities
- Develop and promote a monitoring framework

Priority 7

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

Strategies

- Invest in landscape restoration over the long-term
- Develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economies
- Traditional conservation incentives may hinder participation; while at the same time, new, untested incentives may be developed to increase conservation work across Oregon. In addition, effectively conserving and restoring watersheds requires a thorough understanding of how economics and restoration/conservation actions intersect.
- Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB's mission



OREGON Watershed Enhancement Board



2018 Strategic Plan



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

June 25, 2018

On behalf of the board members and staff of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), we invite you to review our 2018-2028 strategic plan. Based on a year and a half of conversations with partners and grantees, this plan celebrates all we have accomplished together over the last twenty years and sets a course for the next ten.

OWEB, our partners, and our grantees have much to celebrate. With over \$550 million in investments from Lottery, Salmon License Plates, federal and other funds, our grantees have restored 5,100 miles of streams, and improved habitat on over 1.1 million acres in the watersheds above those streams. Coupled with the restoration or creation of 51,000 acres of wetlands and estuaries, these gains support clean water and habitat for Oregonians and the fish and wildlife species that call this state home.

Our current investment portfolio – ranging from our flagship Open Solicitation grants to our newly established Organizational Collaboration grants – provides the foundation to improve the health of our watersheds by investing in people in our local communities. OWEB grants support local community partners to work with farmers, ranchers, forestland owners, and local contractors to provide clean water for Oregonians and healthy habitat for our fish and wildlife.

Our new plan builds on that strong granting foundation. As we look forward to the next ten years, we will focus our efforts, and current and future grant offerings, to address these strategic priorities:

- Working with partners, we will help Oregonians better **understand the relationship between people and watersheds**, and provide opportunities for them to improve the health of their own watershed. At the same time, we will ensure that **leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians**.
- Our board and staff recognize that healthy watersheds are supported by the people who care for them. As we look to the future, OWEB will use its current grant offerings and consider new offerings that **support community capacity and strategic partnerships to achieve healthy watersheds**.
- While OWEB is a major investor in healthy watersheds, there are many others with a vested interest in this work. In partnership with agencies, foundations, and the business community, we will help **watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio**.
- Since our inception, much of the work of our local partners has taken place on private farms, ranches and forestlands. Over the next ten years, we will find ways to improve the landowner access to funding and technical support for conservation on their lands, ensuring that **the value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health**.
- We will **invest in coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness** and increase the capacity to track and communicate the impact of OWEB's grant-making. Oregon has long been recognized as a leader in its care for the watersheds we call home. Oregonians have chosen to permanently invest in healthy watersheds, which allows local partners the space to test **bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds**.

Over the past year of conversations, we have learned many of you share these same priorities, and we hope you will join us in implementing them. As we identify specific actions and measures to track our plan, we will share our progress with you. We look forward to working with you to improve the health of Oregon's watersheds, and the opportunity to celebrate our successes over the next ten years.

Sincerely,

Randy Labbe and Will Neuhauser
OWEB Co-Chairs

Preamble



The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board cares about and invests state funding in the health of the land in Oregon's watersheds and the water that flows through it.

Everyone in the world lives in a watershed. Watersheds encompass every square inch of land on the planet, starting at the very top of the highest ridge. They include every place from which water flows as it enters creeks, then streams, then rivers, then the ocean and lakes. A watershed is as much about the land across and through which water flows as it is about the water itself. Urban, rural, desert, rainforest – every part of the landscape is in a watershed, and every part of the landscape matters when we talk about watershed health.

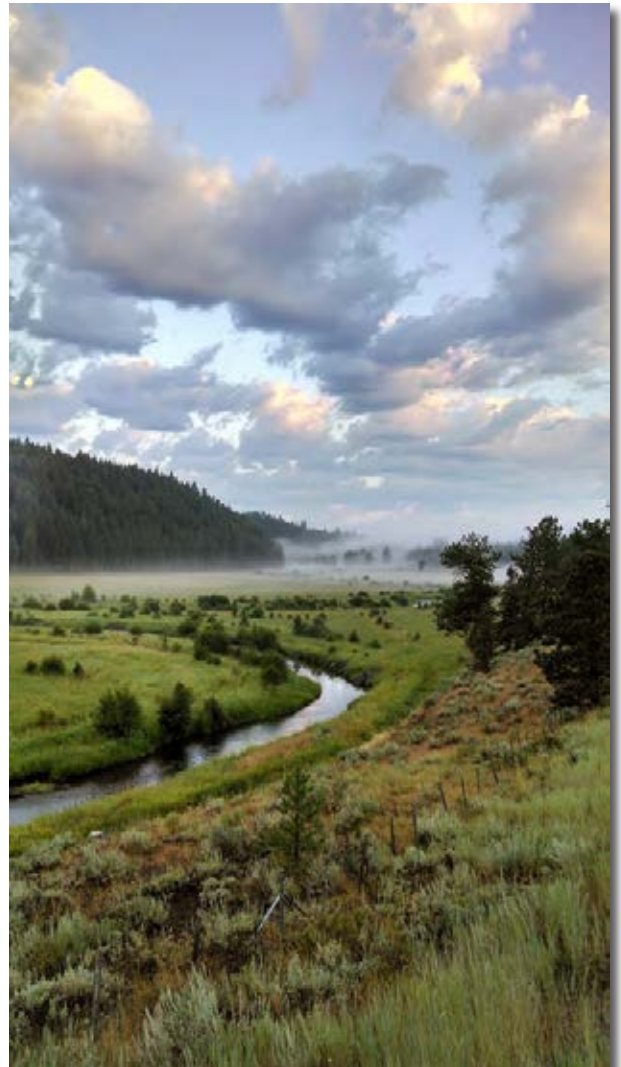
Healthy watersheds work hard. They move sediment from the mountains to their ultimate destination, beaches and bays, sorting it along the way to create diverse landscapes and habitats. They cycle nutrients and convert them into forms that living organisms can use. They purify and store water, and then meter its release into streams to reduce flooding and damaging erosion in the winter and to sustain flows and cool temperatures during the dry season. Watersheds even improve air quality by absorbing pollutants and greenhouse gases.¹

In addition to environmental benefits, healthy watersheds matter for our state's economy and communities. A watershed that is healthy can grow big trees. When managed with care, those trees support a sustainable timber harvest. At the same time, they provide homes for owls and support habitat for salmon in the streams. A healthy watershed

grows sagebrush where birds nurture and protect their young, and a place for ranchers to raise cattle that thrive. Water that runs through lands that are cared for and managed is cleaner, requiring less treatment for a family's drinking water. Clean water and healthy forests and deserts create spaces for those families to swim, camp, hike, fish, and hunt.

We care about watersheds – those lands and water that sustain us. A healthy watershed provides enough food, water, and shelter for the people, plants, fish and wildlife that inhabit it – not just for Oregonians now, but for future generations as well. In return, healthy watersheds are supported by people who reflect the diversity of their communities. OWEB will seek out and develop leaders that reflect the diversity of Oregon to engage them in the rewarding work of watershed restoration.

When the watershed and its water are vibrant and healthy, we are too.



K. Handley

1 Marin County Department of Public Works (2014)

Who We Are

We are committed to exemplifying the values we hold to be important in this work. These ideas are about our conscience, our convictions, and the commitments about our ethos and ethic.

In all things, we will...

Be bold

We believe in pursuing the greatest potential, not the easiest path. To be bold means to go be unafraid to listen to and explore new ideas even if they run counter to established processes. It means that we will focus on opportunities and strive to overcome the barriers we face. Practicing boldness pushes us to think in new ways and try new and innovative strategies.

Be open and transparent

Being open and transparent means being committed to active, two-way communication internally and externally as a means for developing and maintaining strong partnerships. We will ensure that all decisions are transparently made and their reasoning is clearly communicated. We will consistently check in with partners to make sure they understand what we've communicated.

Consider future Oregonians

Everything we do now will impact the Oregonians of the future. We will be thoughtful about helping stakeholders develop sustainable watersheds. We will be informed by Oregon's legacy of watershed restoration and cooperative conservation while developing a vision for cooperative conservation in the future that is equitable and inclusive.

Be curious

Being curious means not just accepting the status quo but asking "why," "how," and "what if?" We will approach all situations with curiosity, encouraging staff and stakeholders to ask questions as they think about our watersheds and our practices. When we are curious, we are more apt to be responsive and flexible, adapting to the opportunities and challenges around us. We will seek to listen, learn, and think about watershed health and cooperative conservation in new ways and through fresh perspectives.



What We Believe In



We hold fast to a set of ideas that provide a fundamental and underlying rationale for our work. These are our foundational perspectives. They keep us oriented. These are the core ideas that guide us.

Dedicated to the idea that...

- ◆ Healthy watersheds sustain healthy communities now and in the future.
Oregon's watersheds are intertwined with its people – the land is a part of our culture, our food and water, our work and our recreation. As a result, the well-being of all Oregonians depends on the health of our watersheds. Current and future generations need access to whole and healthy watersheds. People and communities are an integral part of their watershed, just like fish and wildlife. A community's economic and social health comes from the health of the lands that surround them and the ability to draw enjoyment from clean water, open spaces, and natural habitats.
- ◆ Every Oregonian plays a role in the health of our watersheds.
We are committed to being profoundly inclusive because we believe every person of every background – whether urban or rural, rich or poor; regardless of age, ethnicity, education, beliefs, or politics – has something valuable to contribute to a healthy watershed. When people connect with their watershed, they will care for their watershed. The roles in each watershed are many and overlapping: planner, funder, doer, enjoyer, and communicator, among others. We encourage every citizen, staff, and stakeholder to find their niche and to help others find theirs.
- ◆ It takes broad partnership to support resilient watersheds.
The Oregon way is unique. In Oregon, no individual landowner or community needs to grapple with watershed challenges alone. Cooperative conservation is built from broad, diverse partnerships that collaborate to develop and implement enduring watershed solutions. It is the Oregon way to invest in restoring and sustaining healthy, resilient watersheds. Public investment in watersheds is a value and commitment of Oregonians.
- ◆ The work to improve our watersheds requires we take the long view.
Healthy watersheds require the stewardship of generations. With permanent funding, we have the opportunity to test approaches that get to root causes. The challenges we must address came from generations of impacts, and will require we and our partners take the long view in determining the best approaches to address them. We are engaging in work we might not see the end of; it requires patience, persistence, discipline, and a vision for the future that embraces the long view.



The Impact We Want to Achieve



Our ideas of intended impact are the areas of the change we would like to see in Oregon as a result of our work. These ideas describe how Oregon will be different as a result of all that we and our partners accomplish. Everything we do is designed to achieve results in the following areas of impact.

Our work is in service to...

Healthy, resilient watersheds (Ecological)

What we mean: A healthy, resilient watershed provides clean water and a vibrant place to live for people, fish, and wildlife - now and in the future. OWEB's investments will address the root causes of watershed problems. These investments will result in measurable improvements that lead to healthier streams and healthier upland habitat, while ensuring that the work of our grantees is resilient to long-term impacts to the environment.

Broad care and stewardship of watersheds by Oregonians (Social)

What we mean: Broad care and stewardship of Oregon's natural places can come about only by greater understanding, awareness, and appreciation by each Oregonian of the impact of their everyday actions on the health of their watersheds. Working with partners, OWEB will make special effort to meaningfully engage each Oregonian, including underserved and under-represented populations. This engagement will recognize each Oregonian's unique connection with the land – whether cultural, spiritual, economic, or recreational. OWEB will encourage stewardship as a path toward vibrancy, health and abundance in Oregon's watersheds, and promote engagement of current and future generations.



K. Handley

Adaptive capacity of communities to support their watersheds (Community)

What we mean: OWEB seeks to ensure all communities empower diverse stakeholders to design, implement, and evaluate collaborative conservation actions. Engaged community members are better able to adapt to new ideas, address new challenges and design new approaches to improve their watershed. When landowners, land managers and local citizens are actively involved in shared learning and leadership within local organizations, the capacity of communities to improve the health of their watersheds is expanded.

Strengthened economies emerging from healthy watersheds (Economic)

What we mean: Oregon’s natural resource industries – agriculture, forestry, fishing, recreation – are dependent on healthy watersheds to be sustainable. The work of restoring natural areas creates jobs in communities, and the impact of a healthy watershed extends to all segments of Oregon’s economy and is essential for the economic vitality of the State. When communities understand the link between healthy watersheds and a strong economy, they are more likely to invest in improving both.

OWEB will support the capacity of local organizations to engage their community in cooperative conservation while benefiting Oregon’s diverse economies.

Strong and diverse partnerships that promote and sustain healthy watersheds (Sectoral)

What we mean: Strong and diverse partnerships include the meaningful involvement of local, regional, and statewide organizations, public and private investors, government partners and experts from across Oregon. By understanding the needs of the watershed and community, OWEB is uniquely positioned to help to connect resources with communities. Collaboration allows the opportunity for cross-pollination of ideas, cross-boundary work, adaptive learning, and heightened fidelity to science. OWEB will encourage partners to develop a common vision and objectives to improve their watershed.



The Approach We Take



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

Our work is characterized by...

◆ Involving stakeholders broadly and in partnership

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



Confederated Tribes
of Warm Springs

◆ Using best available science supported by local knowledge

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



◆ Investing with long-term outcomes in mind

- Maintaining progress into the future
- Stewarding for the long term
- Taking the long view on projects and interventions

◆ Demonstrating impact through meaningful monitoring and evaluation

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



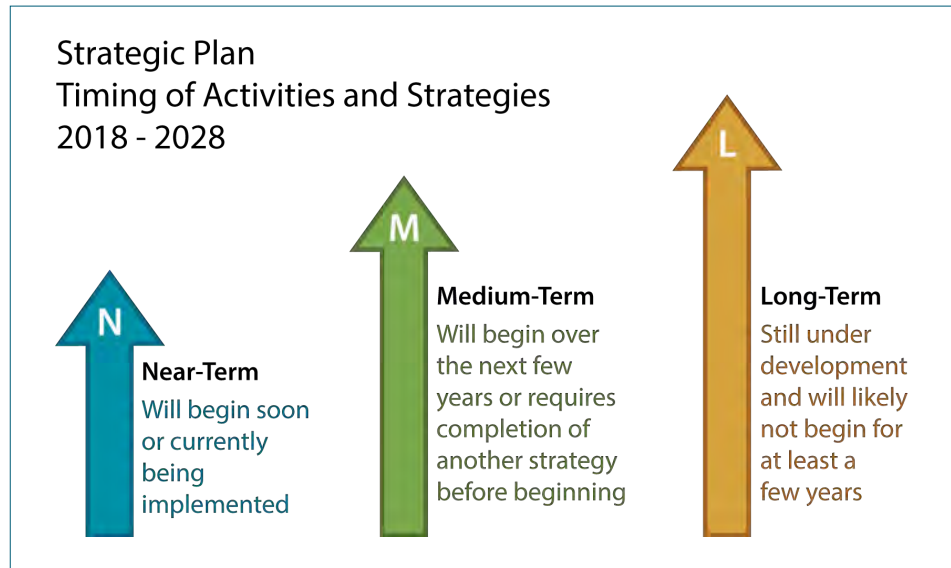
Confederated Tribes
of Warm Springs

◆ Reaching and involving underrepresented populations

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

Priorities, Strategies, and Action Examples

With extensive input from our stakeholders, OWEB has designed a strategic plan to provide direction for the agency and its investments over the next 10 years. With that in mind, the strategies within each priority are staged. In some cases, one strategy may need to be completed before another begins. In other cases, based on capacity, some strategies are prioritized for implementation in the near term, while others may not be implemented until later. The arrows below are indicated next to each strategy to highlight when strategies are expected to be implemented.



In addition, some strategies are focused on work with our partners and stakeholders, while others may result in a policy or funding shift for the OWEB Board. Strategies, objectives, or activities that may result in a policy or funding shift by the board are represented by the yellow icon with 3 arrows.





Priority 1

Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds

What we mean

OWEB serves as an information source and catalyst for partners as they carry messages to their stakeholders about the importance of watersheds to the health and vitality of all Oregonians. This will include the development of story-telling and community engagement with dual goals. First, to help Oregonians take an active role in the health of their watershed and second, to increase awareness of the role watersheds play in improving the well-being of the people who reside in them. This will result in a growing care and stewardship of local watersheds and a deeper commitment to watershed work throughout the state.

Strategies

1. Develop and implement broad awareness campaigns and highlight personal stories to tell the economic, restoration and community successes of watershed investments.
2. Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches.

Outcomes

- Non-traditional partners are involved and engaged in strategic watershed approaches.
- Successes are celebrated at the local and state level through use of appropriate tools.
- More Oregonians:
 - are aware of the impacts of their investment in their watershed.
 - understand why healthy watersheds matter to their family and community.
 - understand their role in keeping their watershed healthy.





Intent

Broad care and stewardship of Oregon's natural places can come about only by greater understanding, awareness, and appreciation by each Oregonian of the impact of their everyday actions on the health of their watersheds. Working with Oregon Lottery, watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs), land trusts and others, OWEB will tell the stories of the people, places, and partnerships that make Oregon's conservation ethic unique. This will include celebrating accomplishments and saying "Thank You" to all Oregonians who support this work.

Objectives

- In partnership with Oregon Lottery, the Oregon Conservation Partnership, and other conservation partners, develop tools and resources for local stakeholders to help them highlight conservation actions and the people and places impacted by those actions.
- Develop and share consistent messages across all OWEB's partners and stakeholders regarding the importance of watersheds to the health and vitality of all Oregonians.
- Train and educate local communicators to tell the story.

Activity Examples

Short Term (1-3 years)

- Coordinate with Lottery, SWCDs, watershed councils, and land trusts on 20th Anniversary campaign, including training for local organizations to help tell the story.

Medium-Long Term (3-6 years)

- Develop a continuous feed of stories (people and actions) to provide for Lottery to highlight ongoing conservation actions.





Intent

New, non-traditional partners (corporations, recreation and healthcare industries, etc.) can help improve watershed health. This will require new and different approaches to reach out to partners and engage them in ways that benefit their organization. Outreach is one critical component of establishing and maintaining partnerships. Strong and diverse partnerships include the meaningful involvement of local, regional, and statewide organizations; public and private investors; government partners; and experts from across Oregon. By understanding the needs of the watershed and community, OWEB is uniquely positioned to help to connect resources with communities. Collaboration allows the opportunity for cross-pollination of ideas, cross-boundary work, adaptive learning, and heightened fidelity to science. OWEB will encourage partners to develop a common vision and objectives to improve their watershed.

Objectives

- Identify potential non-traditional partners that are important to improving watershed health.
- Develop outreach and engagement strategies to increase engagement with non-traditional partners.
- Identify and learn from our stakeholders who are already engaging with non-traditional partners.

Activity Examples

Medium-Long Term (3-6 years)

- Identify the needs, opportunities, and gaps that non-traditional partners can fill.
- Work with the Oregon Conservation Partnership to engage with non-traditional partners toward a common goal, including organizations that may have different, but overlapping missions.
- Support stakeholders as they work to engage more diverse partners.





Priority 2

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

What we mean

OWEB's board and staff will engage with partners and grantees to develop models and approaches that actively involve all Oregonians in improving the health of our watersheds. In its own practice, OWEB will seek out and develop leaders that reflect the diversity of Oregon to engage them in the rewarding work of improving the health of their watersheds. OWEB will adopt practices that support diversity in our own work and encourage equity in our grant-making through training, peer-to-peer learning, and other awareness-increasing approaches. This will shape the culture of the watershed work over time, developing a restoration system that is diverse and inclusive.

Strategies

1. Listen, learn and gather Information about diverse populations.
2. Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table.
3. Develop funding strategies with a lens toward diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). 🌱

Outcomes

- New and varied populations are engaged in watershed restoration.
- Grantees and partners actively use DEI tools and resources to recruit a greater diversity of staff, board members and volunteers.
- Increased engagement of under-represented communities in OWEB grant programs and programs of our stakeholders.
- OWEB, state agencies, and other funders consider opportunities to fund natural resource projects with a DEI lens.





Intent

OWEB's board and staff will engage with partners and grantees to develop models and approaches that actively involve all Oregonians, particularly the historically marginalized, to improve the health of our watersheds. OWEB will take the time to listen to and learn from our partners, stakeholders, and others working with the broad diversity of Oregonians.

Objectives

- Engage with current and potential future grant applicants from a diversity of backgrounds to determine the accessibility of our grant programs and if we are meeting their needs.
- Listen to stakeholders about barriers/concerns related to program types and accessibility.
- Increase understanding among staff, board, and stakeholders what DEI work entails.
- Increase understanding of current and potential partners who can help OWEB improve DEI in our board, staff, and grant-making.
- Create a plan to adapt services to accommodate gaps and barriers wherever possible. 🙌

Activity Examples

Short Term (1-3 years)

- With partners, survey our grantees to learn about the demographics of their stakeholders.
- Meet with other state and federal partners who are already doing DEI work to learn, understand available resources, and find ways to partner.
- Hold trainings for staff and board regarding both DEI and the state's unique relationship with tribes.



Intent

OWEB's board and staff will engage with partners and grantees to develop models and approaches that actively involve all Oregonians in improving the health of our watersheds.

Objectives

- In coordination with Oregon Conservation Partnership, develop strategies to help stakeholders recruit and engage under-represented communities based on training and feedback from Strategy 2.1.
- Seek new partnerships to recruit and maintain high-quality, diverse board and staff.
- Implement a continuous feedback loop to evaluate strategies again after completion of Strategy 2.1.

Activity Examples


Medium term (3-6 years)

- Following implementation of Strategy 2.1, develop work plan to expand DEI through OWEB's programs, staff, and board.
- Build DEI conversations and training into staff and board onboarding processes.

Intent

OWEB's board and staff will engage with partners and grantees to develop models and approaches that actively involve all Oregonians in improving the health of our watersheds. Through this process, OWEB will take the time to listen to and learn from our partners, stakeholders, and others working with the broad diversity of Oregonians.

Objectives

- Develop funding models to represent DEI principles. 
- Engage under-represented communities as funding recipients.
- Mobilize under-represented communities as partners in watershed conservation efforts.

Activity Examples

Medium Term (3-6 years)

- Activities will be built out after OWEB's initial listening and learning in years 1-3 of the strategic plan.





Priority 3

Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

What We Mean

Diverse organizations and agencies provide capacity in many forms. OWEB will work with partners of all sizes and at all organizational levels to design resources and deploy tools to enhance the capacity of communities and strategic partnerships to participate in cooperative conservation. Partnerships will have the support they need to develop and implement strategic, science-based approaches to improve watershed health. OWEB will support watershed organizations and associated watershed work at all levels in pursuit of a statewide restoration network that is resilient and sustainable, and capable of achieving ecological outcomes. OWEB will be a statewide champion for partnerships in watershed health, supporting the environment that allows strong and effective partnerships of all sizes and at all levels to grow and flourish. Partnerships that engage a broad range of stakeholders are more inclusive, equitable, effective, consistent, reliable, purposeful, and innovative. This inclusion will amplify the impact of watershed work and develop resilience and capacity in the organizations seeking to improve and sustain healthy watersheds.

Outcomes


- Partners access best community capacity and strategic practices and approaches.
- OWEB can clearly tell the story of the value of capacity investments.
- Funders are aware of the importance of funding capacity.
- Lessons learned from past capacity investments inform funding decisions.
- Restoration projects involving multiple agencies are implemented more efficiently and effectively
- State-federal agencies increase participation in strategic partnerships.



**Intent**

By evaluating one of OWEB's longest-running programs and developing lessons learned, we are encouraging staff and stakeholders to ask questions as they think about how capacity investments are used. When we are curious, we are more apt to be responsive and flexible, adapting to the opportunities and challenges around us. We will seek to listen, learn, and think about cooperative conservation in new ways and through fresh perspectives.


Objectives

- Evaluate existing SWCD and watershed council capacity investments.
- Establish process to monitor, evaluate, and develop opportunities to improve investments in capacity to meet community needs.
- Design strategies that improve capacity programs and build on lessons learned. 

Activity Examples*Short Term (1-3 years)*

- Exchange information with other funders to learn how they invest in organizational capacity.
- Complete a qualitative and quantitative evaluation of past watershed council and SWCD capacity investments.
- Quantitative: Understand what our capacity dollars are already funding and the local accomplishments that are the result of these investments.
- Qualitative: Interview current and previous SWCD/WC staff and board members.


Medium Term (3-6 years)

- Identify lessons learned. Share with partners (funders, state and federal agencies).
- Use lessons learned to continue to adaptively manage capacity funding going forward. 

**Intent**

The Oregon way is unique. In Oregon, no individual landowner or community needs to grapple with watershed challenges alone. Cooperative conservation is built from broad, diverse partnerships that collaborate to develop and implement enduring watershed solutions. We seek to evaluate and learn to continue providing operating capacity funds for local organizations to advance conservation missions. We understand that capacity funding enables local partners to engage their communities in cooperative conservation while benefiting Oregon's diverse economies.


Objectives

- Evaluate the current state of capacity investments, including opportunities and gaps.
- Increase understanding of the connection between capacity investments and conservation actions.
- Identify ingredients of successful partnerships and develop tools for partnership self-evaluation.
- Using lessons learned, provide a range of resources including funding, technical tools, and learning opportunities that serve the needs of existing, new, and emerging partnerships, and local capacity. 



Continued

Activity Examples


Short term (1-3 years)

- Analyze other capacity funding models, including diverse, non-traditional approaches.
- Explore and share information and best practices on high-performing partnerships.
- Explore geographic/regional capacity funding to fill core capacity functions, incorporating results from the retrospective evaluation.
- Provide funding and support for regional shared services. 

Medium Term (3-6 years)

- Considering the life cycle of a partnership, community opportunities, and gaps, identify resources needed to improve stability for organizations, partnerships, and the restoration community.
- Based on research, implement a pilot to test new ways for supporting organizational, community and/or partnership capacity. 
- Use results of research to evaluate OWEB's spending plan and fund allocation for operating capacity.
- Assess needs for providing information to help foster a statewide network of high-performing partners.

Long Term (6-10 years)


- Review results of pilot and make any adjustments to OWEB's operating capacity funding. 

Strategy 3.3 Accelerate state/federal agency participation in partnerships

Intent

Natural resource agencies have complementary missions in support of watershed health. OWEB can support existing and new models that increase engagement of state/federal agencies in strategic partnerships. Strong and diverse partnerships include the meaningful involvement of local, regional, and statewide organizations, public and private investors, government partners and experts from across Oregon. By understanding the needs of the watershed and community, OWEB is uniquely positioned to help to connect resources with communities. Collaboration allows the opportunity for cross-pollination of ideas, cross-boundary work, adaptive learning, and heightened fidelity to science.

Objectives

- Develop approaches to help local organizations improve partnerships with state/federal agencies.
- Increase engagement of and coordination among state/federal agencies.
- Develop new models of efficient and effective coordination that make restoration easier. 

Activity Examples

Short term (1-3 years)

- Coordinate with federal and state agency OWEB Board members to highlight the importance of agency collaboration.
- Work with federal and state agency OWEB Board members to continue to elevate the need for conservation and restoration coordination among agencies.
- Continue to support existing effective state/federal agency partnerships, including providing updates at Board meetings and Natural Resources Cabinet.
- Coordinate with state and federal agencies to identify pilot areas that can be models for efficient and effective restoration project implementation.



Priority 4

Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio

What We Mean

OWEB will work with traditional and non-traditional funders to support the work that watershed organizations accomplish in communities. At the same time, OWEB and partners will work with these same organizations to strengthen their ability to seek and secure more diverse funding sources for watershed work. This two-pronged approach will provide communities the resources to move forward strategically and boldly in addressing watershed restoration needs.

Outcomes

- Agencies have a shared vision about how to invest strategically in restoration.
- Oregon has a comprehensive analysis of the state's natural and built infrastructure to direct future investments.
- Foundations and corporations are partners in watershed funding efforts.
- Foundations and corporations increase their investment in restoration.
- Natural resources companies are implementing watershed health work that is also environmentally sustainable.



Greenbelt Land Trust



Intent

There are a number of public agencies who provide funding related to watershed health, water quality and habitat. OWEB can support the development of statewide coordination of investments including grants, mitigation, and other funding mechanisms. Strong and diverse partnerships include the meaningful involvement of local, regional, and statewide organizations, public and private investors, government partners and experts from across Oregon. By understanding the needs of the watershed and community, OWEB is uniquely positioned to help to connect resources with communities.

Objectives

- Coordinate development of a state conservation investment vision to create clarity from the highest levels of the executive branch to local landowners.
- Better coordinate mitigation and restoration funding to leverage conservation efforts.
- Evaluate OWEB's role in, and capacity to, coordinate funding across agencies.
- Develop cross-agency approaches to coordinate investments at the state level.

Activity Examples

Short Term (1-3 years)

- Map the landscape of natural resource funding around the state and identify areas for potential alignment.
- Update OWEB mitigation policy to increase clarity around OWEB investments and how they work with mitigation funding.

Medium Term (3-6 years)

- Research approaches to increase state-level granting across agencies.
- Identify opportunities to leverage mitigation and restoration investments across state agencies.
- Work with state agencies to develop state investment vision.
- Identify innovative public agency investment strategies to better align with other funders.







Intent

Foundations may or may not know about the important restoration work occurring in Oregon. While restoration may not be a priority for foundations, the additional benefits of restoration projects may be. Jobs, community capacity, health, and community resiliency are just a few additional benefits that come from restoration projects, which may be of interest to private foundations. Strong and diverse partnerships include the meaningful involvement of local, regional, and statewide organizations, public and private investors, government partners and experts from across Oregon. By understanding the needs of the watershed and community, OWEB is uniquely positioned to help to connect resources with communities.

Objectives


- Develop funder-focused messaging around the multiple benefits of restoration investments.
- Work with other funders to better reflect environmental, community and economic values in in conservation granting.
- Partner with foundations to invest in strategic partnerships around conservation and restoration. 
- Reduce the risk of projects from a private foundation's perspective to encourage project investment. 
- Seek ways to increase connections with tribal foundations.

Activity Examples

Short -Term (1-3 years)

- Map the landscape of natural resource funding around the state and identify areas for potential alignment.
- Utilize existing convenings to highlight OWEB successes and open a dialogue with funders about co-investment.

Medium Term (3-6 years)

- Use existing networks to meet with funders as the opportunities arise.
- Explore opportunities for expanding conversations with foundations.
- Share OWEB's innovations with private foundations to encourage their investment in conservation.
- Identify new and innovative foundation investment strategies to better align with other funders. 



Intent

Corporations in Oregon have a vested interest in clean water and healthy watersheds. OWEB will work with partners to identify ways to help corporations invest strategically in the health of their local watershed. Strong and diverse partnerships, include the meaningful involvement of local, regional, and statewide organizations, public and private investors, government partners, and experts from across Oregon. By understanding the needs of the watershed and community, OWEB is uniquely positioned to help to connect corporate resources with communities.



Continued

Objectives

- Identify companies who have an inherent interest in natural resources, water, and watersheds.
- Work with companies to identify sponsorship models that work for them.
- Work with statewide conservation organizations to expand grantee capability to seek corporation investments in local projects.
- Reduce the risk of projects from the funder's perspective to encourage project investment. 🌱

Activity Examples

Short-term (1-3 years)

- Map the landscape of natural resource funding around the state and identify areas for potential alignment.

Medium term (3-6 years)

- Partner with foundations to develop messages around the economic, environmental, and community values of conservation investments for corporations.

Long term (6-10 years)

- Identify new and innovative corporate investment strategies to better align with other funders.

Strategy 4.4



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

Intent

Oregon needs to increase its investment for increasingly complex conservation and restoration needs. This will require creative thinking around funding opportunities that match the size and scale of Oregon's vision for healthy watersheds. It is likely the investment need will be far beyond OWEB and its current partners' ability to fund with existing dollars. Strong and diverse partnerships include the meaningful involvement of local, regional, and statewide organizations, public and private investors, government partners and experts from across Oregon.

Objectives

In collaboration with the Governor's office, state agencies and other partners:

- Identify areas ripe for large-scale investments.
- Clearly identify the size of the challenge and the time scale to address it with or without additional funding.
- Develop analysis approaches to prioritize investment needs at the regional and state scale. 🌱

Activity Examples

Short Term (1-3 years)

- Identify areas of alignment between state climate change initiatives and OWEB funding.
- Partner to develop inventory, assessment, and prioritization approaches to identify water and other associated infrastructure needs.

Medium-Long Term (3-10 years)

- Identify additional areas of alignment for new and creative investment. 🌱



Priority 5

The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health

What we mean

Oregon's natural resource industries - agriculture, forestry, fishing, recreation – are dependent on healthy watersheds for their sustainability, including on private lands. OWEB will develop strategies to help local partners engage broader participation among those who own and manage working lands. This includes working broadly with partners who own or manage working lands and conservation communities to develop intentional approaches that fully embrace the value of well-managed working lands to habitat, water quality, and local economies.

NOTE: "Working land" means land that is actively used by an agricultural or forest land owner or operator for an agricultural or forestland operation that includes, but need not be *limited* to, active engagement in farming, ranching or timber management.

Outcomes

- Generations of landowners continue to integrate conservation on their working lands while maintaining economic sustainability.
- Fully functioning working landscapes remain resilient into the future.
- Across the state, local partners have the resources necessary to better facilitate why and where restoration opportunities exist on working lands.
- Sustained vitality of Oregon's natural resources industries.



**Intent**

Working with partners and the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission, finalize rules, solicit for applications, and determine appropriate funding sources for working lands easements, management plans, and succession planning for agricultural landowners. Oregon's watersheds are intertwined with its people – the land is a part of our culture, our food and water, our work and our recreation. As a result, the well-being of all Oregonians depends on the health of our watersheds. Current and future generations need access to healthy watersheds. People and communities are an integral part of their watershed, just like fish and wildlife. A community's economic and social health comes from the health of the lands that surround them and the ability to draw enjoyment from clean water, open spaces, and natural habitats.

Objectives

- Establish a fully functioning Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.
- Adopt rules governing grant programs for succession planning, covenants, easements, and technical assistance. 🌱
- Determine funding needs for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. Full implementation is funding-dependent. 🌱

Activity Examples

Short Term (1-3 years)

- Provide leadership for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.
- Facilitate the Commission's development of program rules.
- Implement surveys and otherwise solicit the level of interest in the granting programs under the Commission's purview to determine funding needs.
- Support existing and new land trusts, soil and water conservation districts and other working land easement partners as they work with landowners interested in the program.

**Intent**

The agency will start by learning from others with more experience and knowledge. This includes a commitment to continuous learning by understanding who our current grantees, partners and stakeholders are and clearly identifying the gaps in these areas and how they are represented. This is important to fully incorporate strong working lands approaches into OWEB's mission. Oregon's natural resource industries – agriculture, forestry, fishing, recreation – are dependent on healthy watersheds to be sustainable. The work of restoring natural areas creates jobs in communities, and the impact of a healthy watershed extends to all segments of Oregon's economy and is essential for the economic vitality of the state. When communities understand the link between healthy watersheds and a strong economy, they are more likely to invest in improving both.

Objectives

- Map the working lands community, defining landowner barriers to and motivations for implementing conservation.
- Develop a pathway to work with partners to increase working lands projects, and support technical assistance for owners and managers of working lands.
- Evaluate opportunities for incentives to increase landowner participation.

Continued

Activity Examples

Short-term (1-3 years)

- Invest with grantees and working lands advocates to survey landowners to better understand their motivation and barriers to implementing conservation.
- Develop and design training and information sharing approaches.

Medium Term (3-6 years)

- Work with partners to develop a pathway to increase working lands projects.
- Work with partners to identify and support technical assistance opportunities for owners and managers of working lands.



Strategy 5.3



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

Intent

There are many areas in the state where working lands strategies and habitat/water quality priorities intersect. A number of statewide agencies and organizations have strong connections with farmers, ranchers and forest land owners. OWEB will partner with those organizations (formally and informally) to increase landowner involvement in conservation – whether through a program or on their own. OWEB can continue to work with partners at the state and local level to identify strategic areas where the agency can focus its investments on that intersection, highlighting the compatibility of working lands conservation strategies.

Objectives

- Engage multi-agency resources to help target and develop assistance for landowners.
- Capitalize on opportunities to complement Oregon's land use program with conservation investments.
- Increase partnerships with those who are implementing successful working land approaches.
- Create opportunities to increase incentives for landowner participation in working lands conservation based on learning from strategy 5.2.

Activity Examples

Medium Term (3-6 years)

- Train review teams about the value of working lands for conservation.
- Based on lessons learned from strategy 5.2, identify funding and funding gaps for working lands conservation projects.
- Convene resource specialists to help identify species, habitat and water quality needs/opportunities and where they intersect with working lands; share this information broadly.
- Establish and facilitate a state technical group to identify and recommend approaches to invest in technical support tools for local partners.



Intent

While local organizations are very effective at working with farm, ranch and forest landowners, there are some landowners/managers who have not yet been engaged in conservation for a variety of reasons. OWEB can coordinate with other partners to help local organizations effectively engage new landowners in their community.

Objectives

- Increase available technical resources for landowners and managers of working lands.
- Develop funding mechanisms for long-term stewardship of working lands.
- Support stakeholder engagement to better address the changing demographics of owners and managers of working lands in rural Oregon.

Activity Examples

Medium term (3-6 years)

- Facilitate assessment of technical assistance needs.
- Increase investment in technical assistance to grantees and working lands advocates.
- Design monitoring and evaluation strategies for working lands restoration.

Long term (6-10 years)

- Develop technical assessment materials to meet the needs of specific audiences.



Intent

Landowner engagement is an important component to increase working lands projects to build understanding and support for the work as well as identify opportunities to work with interested land owners.

Objectives

- Engage community leaders to help build support and understanding for working lands conservation.
- Expand awareness or understanding of working lands conservation programs to owners and managers of working lands not currently engaged.
- Broadly communicate economic and conservation values of working lands conservation, emphasizing the balance of habitat, water quality, and landowner needs.
- Build and encourage a culture of conservation on working lands.
- Ensure consistent working lands conservation opportunities across the state.

Activity Examples

- Additional activities will be developed based on lessons learned from strategy 5.2.



Priority 6

Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

What we mean

OWEB will develop greater capacity throughout the system of watershed stakeholders to monitor progress, learn from projects, track effectiveness, gather data, respond to data, and advance the cause of healthy, resilient watersheds through monitoring and evaluation. OWEB will work with partners to ensure frameworks to receive and share information exist. These frameworks will take advantage of the best scientific thinking and latest methods and technology in and outside the restoration community. OWEB and partners will develop monitoring ‘networks’ to which organizations in all parts of the state can contribute.

Outcomes

- Decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results.
- Limited monitoring resources are focused on appropriate, high-quality, prioritized monitoring being conducted by state/federal agencies and local organizations.
- Local organizations integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning.
- Evaluation of impact, not just effort, is practiced broadly.
- Impacts on ecological, economic and social factors are considered as a part of successful monitoring efforts.
- Partners are using results-based restoration ‘stories’ to share conservation successes and lessons learned.
- Monitoring frameworks are developed and shared.
- Monitoring results that can be visualized across time and space are available at local, watershed and regional scales.





Intent

OWEB seeks to ensure all communities empower diverse stakeholders to design, implement, and evaluate collaborative conservation actions. Engaged community members are better able to adapt to new ideas, address new challenges and design new approaches to improve their watershed. When landowners, land managers and local citizens are actively involved in shared learning and leadership within local organizations, the capacity of communities to improve the health of their watersheds is expanded.

Objectives

- Coordinate with partners to tell the story of watershed work, progress, and impact.
- Improve understanding and awareness about how restoration benefits people.
- Identify clear and understandable restoration outcomes, including measures of both ecological and social/economic outcomes that describe the relevance of OWEB's investments to the public.

Activity Examples

Short term (1-3 years)

- Assess what information is readily available for tracking restoration results, outcomes, and impacts, and improve the quality and relevance of data collected as appropriate.
- Work with grantees and other local partners to identify the best ways to communicate outcomes.
- Build on existing processes for 'telling the story' to effectively interpret scientific information and communicate results in ways that are meaningful to diverse audiences. 📄

Medium-Long Term (3-10 years)

- Link refinements to OWEB's monitoring grant-making to OWEB's approach to 'telling the story of restoration' and adaptively manage this work.
- Continue to explore new and diverse ways to use online and social media.
- Continue to build on successful awareness and communication efforts, expanding OWEB's ability to reach new or under-represented sectors or demographic groups.



Strategy 6.2 Invest in monitoring over the long term

Intent


For effectiveness monitoring to be successful, there needs to be long-term sustained effort – or, at the very least, an ability to sample or measure indicators at appropriate time scales. OWEB seeks to ensure all communities empower diverse stakeholders to design, implement, and evaluate collaborative conservation actions. Engaged community members are better able to adapt to new ideas, address new challenges and design new approaches to improve their watershed. When landowners, land managers and local citizens are actively involved in shared learning and leadership within local organizations, the capacity of communities to improve the health of their watersheds is expanded.

Objectives


- Help grantees develop realistic approaches for what to monitor, purpose, and timeframe.
- Explore coordinated monitoring approaches that provide monitoring capacity and technical support at appropriate and realistic scales of both geography and time.
- Consider how theory of change approaches can inform both restoration planning and strategies to track the effectiveness of restoration over the long term.
- Develop the ability to communicate the structure of a monitoring framework over the long term and its relevance to restoration practitioners, managers, and funders who are interested in better understanding status and trends and the effectiveness of restoration.

Activity Examples

Short-Medium term (2-4 years)

- Assess existing coordinated monitoring efforts and/or teams to understand how they have functioned.
- Evaluate past OWEB investments in paired restoration and large-scale monitoring, FIP monitoring, and long standing monitoring projects/programs. 

Long Term (5-10 years)

- Develop recommendations for the board about long-term investments in monitoring, and criteria for applicants to address the board priorities for long-term investments in monitoring. 

Strategy 6.3 Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring

Intent


Develop monitoring and adaptive management guidance to provide technical support.

Objectives

- Understand specific barriers and challenges to implementing successful monitoring efforts.
- Improve monitoring grant applications to meet local and state needs.
- Distill technical monitoring data into useable information for adaptive management.

Activity Examples

Short-Medium Term (1-5 years)

- Prioritize findings of OWEB's monitoring application guidance development process, develop a work plan for refining the agency's monitoring grant-making, and begin implementation of the plan. Example activities include:
- Compile and communicate lessons learned from past monitoring investments.
- Develop guidance documents for restoration and monitoring practitioners. 

Strategy 6.4 Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners

Intent

Develop communication strategies to share results, incorporate scientific and technical information, including climate science information, into restoration planning, and support adaptive management by helping bridge the gap between research/monitoring and on-the-ground work.

Objectives

- Accelerate science/practitioner communication.
- Explore the value of the regional forums and/or networks to coordinate monitoring and encourage efficient and effective use of available resources for monitoring.
- Make scientific data and tools available to restoration practitioners.

Activity Examples

Medium-Term (3-5 years)

- Explore and support existing information-sharing venues to share results of research and monitoring, including workshops, symposia, regional monitoring gatherings, and peer exchanges.
- Share information about resources and tools available through existing regional networks.
- Continue to coordinate with other states on opportunities for action-specific monitoring partnerships.

Long-Term (5-10 years)

- Explore the value of helping to organize informal networks that include scientists/researchers, technical/monitoring experts, and restoration practitioners.

Strategy 6.5 Define monitoring priorities

Intent


Assess what OWEB wants to achieve through monitoring and then create the resources and tools necessary. Define appropriate monitoring scopes or scales. Consider the operational contexts to determine what is appropriate for any given partnership or organization.

Objectives

- Define appropriate scopes and/or scales for monitoring. 
- Integrate monitoring with other OWEB investments to ensure ecological outcomes can be quantified.
- Promote monitoring as a critical component of restoration work and identify other funding partners for this work.

Activity Examples

Medium-Term (3-5 years)

- Assess and define what OWEB wants to achieve through monitoring. 
- Review the findings from other strategies under the Coordinated Monitoring priority.


Long-Term (5-10 years)

- Draft monitoring priorities for consideration by the board.
- Use funding conversations with foundations and state agencies under Priority 4 to explore areas of common interest in funding monitoring, including assessment of other interested and willing funders.

Intent


Encourage state and federal agency partners to develop consistent approaches, clear goals, shared scope and scale for their watershed monitoring.

Objectives

- Partner with state and federal agency partners to develop consistent approaches, clear goals, shared scope, and scale for monitoring watershed restoration outcomes and impacts. 
- Partner with state agencies to increase interagency collaboration and develop a common vision for monitoring at a larger scale.
- Complement larger-scale monitoring planning with embedded approaches to help local partners identify lessons learned at a local scale and with relevance to localized decision-making.
- Strengthen integration of data collection across state and federal agencies.

Activity Examples

Medium-Term (3-5 years)

- Continue implementation of current monitoring efforts and evaluate the use of approaches that bridge larger-to-smaller scales.
- Evaluate existing monitoring strategies and consider their appropriateness as a foundation for developing a monitoring framework. 
- Share information with restoration and monitoring practitioners about existing and emerging data integration and visualization tools.

Long-Term (5-10 years)

- Develop tools and resources to encourage use of a consistent monitoring framework, methodologies, and tools by integrating these into OWEB's grant-making processes.
- Continue to support use and build-out of existing and emerging tools for: integrating data collection efforts; visualizing monitoring results at larger scales; and evaluating potential for more efficient monitoring on the ground.





Priority 7

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

What we mean

OWEB will catalyze, support, and encourage the design and implementation of watershed health innovations by grant applicants. These innovations can reach beyond project implementation to touch all areas of OWEB's granting that support healthy watersheds – from capacity and partnership development to technical assistance, implementation, and monitoring. OWEB will continually weigh the agency's investment risk to encourage design and experimentation in watershed work while ensuring the public benefits from our investments.

Outcomes

- Multi-phased, high-complexity, and large geographic footprint restoration projects are underway.
- OWEB's investment approaches recognize the dual conservation and economic drivers and benefits of watershed actions, where appropriate.
- Diverse, non-traditional projects and activities that contribute to watershed health are now funded that weren't previously.
- Conservation communities value an experimental approach to learning and innovation.
- Conservation communities become comfortable with properties and projects that show potential, even if the work is not demonstrated based on proven past performance.
- OWEB becomes better able to evaluate risk.
- OWEB encourages a culture of innovation.



Philip Bayles



Intent

Expand funding opportunities for large-scale conservation efforts over multiple years, sharing risk amongst diverse partners.

Objectives

- Provide funding for landscape-scale restoration over the long term.
- Provide funding to support partnerships implementing landscape-scale restoration or identify other sources of capacity funding for partnerships.
- Share results of long-term efforts and lessons learned with the broader conservation community.
- Invest in capacity to develop projects that can be successfully implemented at the landscape scale.

Activity Examples

Short term (1-3 years)

- Continue to fund long-term activities that lead to landscape scale restoration.
- Develop evaluation processes for individual restoration grants that reward projects that may entail risk, but offer big potential upsides.

Medium term (3-6 years)

- Evaluate if other OWEB grant programs may be necessary to successfully invest in landscape scale restoration.



Intent

Develop appropriate investment approaches that recognize the dual conservation and economic drivers of watershed actions.

Objectives

- Identify new economic approaches that incentivize conservation.
- Clearly communicate to the public the economic benefits of restoration, while including the ecological benefits realized from well-managed working lands.

Activity Examples

Medium to long-term (4-10 years)

- Research cutting edge science that involves working lands and conservation outcomes.
- Identify economic impacts of healthy fish runs, water quality, and healthy watersheds.
- Develop resources that can help our partners in conservation communicate the economic benefits of restoration.



Intent

We will stimulate innovations and experimentations to adopt promising new practices throughout the conservation system. Once discoveries are made, we will provide insights from the learning to the conservation community for adoption and further experimentation.

Objectives

- Deliberately and nimbly invest in both programs/projects that are traditional (with predictable outcomes) and innovative (where more risk exists), sharing risk amongst diverse partners. 🏗️
- Convene partners to develop, then provide incentives for innovative ideas.
- Evaluate ways to allocate funding specifically for innovation. 🏗️
- Formally recognize that lessons learned are a part of a project's success.

Activity Examples

Short term (1-3 years)

- Capture lessons learned from restoration and partnership investments and share with restoration practitioners to identify areas for innovation and increased risk-taking.
- Develop approaches that allow grantees the space to clearly articulate risks and benefits of new and innovative approaches.
- Develop board and staff capacity to evaluate risk and to be able to weigh risk of innovation against proposed benefits.



The Freshwater Trust

OWEB Board and Staff

The ideas and efforts represented by this strategic plan are built upon the work of current and past OWEB members and partners and will be continued and further developed by those who have yet to join the team. Those listed below are board and staff members at the time of publication of this document.

Board

Randy Labbe, Co-Chair, Public at Large, Portland
Will Neuhauser, Co-Chair, Public at Large, Yamhill
Alan Henning, US Environmental Protection Agency, Eugene
Bruce Buckmaster, Fish & Wildlife Commission, Astoria
Debbie Hollen, US Forest Service, Portland
Gary Marshall, Public at Large, Hines
Jan Lee, Public at Large, Sandy
Jason Robison, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Roseburg
Kathy Stangl, US Bureau of Land Management, Portland
Laura Masterson, Board of Agriculture, Portland
Liza Jane McAlister, Public at Large, Enterprise
Meg Reeves, Water Resources Commission, Corvallis
Paul Henson, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Portland
Ron Alvarado, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Portland
Rosemary Furfey, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, Portland
Stephen Brandt, OSU Extension Administration, Corvallis

Staff

Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
Renee Davis, Deputy Director
Andrew Dutterer, Partnerships Coordinator
Audrey Hatch, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator
Bobbi Riggers, OWRI Data Coordinator
Cammi Hungate, Grant Support Specialist
Cindy Silbernagel, Manager
Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator
Cyrus Curry, Business Application Specialist
Darika Barnes, Executive Assistant
Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator
Eric Williams, Manager
Ginger Lofftus, PCSRF Reporting Assistant
Greg Ciannella, Region 4 Program Representative
Gretchen Kirchner, Technical Support Specialist
Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator
Karen Leiendecker, Region 5 Program Representative
Kathy Leopold, Small Grant Coordinator
Katie Duzik, Region 1 Program Representative
Katy Gunville, Administrative Manager
Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator
Kristi Primley, Administrative Support
Leilani Sullivan, Grant Payment Specialist
Liz Redon, Region 3 Program Representative
Mark Grenbemer, Region 2 Program Representative
Miriam Hulst, Acquisitions Coordinator
Nellie McAdams, Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
Paula Wills, GIS & Technology Specialist
Reed Warner, Information Management Analyst
Sue Greer, Region 6 Program Representative
Tara Choate, Grant Payment Coordinator



OWEB Strategic Plan Draft Outcome and Output Indicators of Progress

| Priority 1 - Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| Strategies | 1. Develop and implement broad awareness campaigns and highlight personal stories to tell the economic, restoration and community successes of watershed investments | <p>We Do This: (actions) <i>Short Term (1-3 years):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinate with Lottery, SWCDs, watershed councils and land trusts on 20th Anniversary Campaign, including training for local organizations to help tell the story. <p><i>Medium-Long Term (3-6 years):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a continuous feed of stories (people and actions) to provide for Lottery to highlight ongoing conservation actions. | <p>So That: (outputs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local partners are trained and have access to media and tools. - Local conservation organizations have meaningful connection to local media. - Each region has access to public engagement strategies that reach non-traditional audiences. - Oregon Lottery media campaigns have new stories every year of watershed work and progress. | <p>To Make This Difference: (outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non-traditional partners are involved and engaged in strategic watershed approaches. - Successes are celebrated at the local and state level through use of appropriate tools. - More Oregonians: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o are aware of the impacts of their investment in their watershed; o understand why healthy watersheds matter to their family and community; o understand their role in keeping their watershed healthy. | <p>Evaluated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in public conversation about watersheds and people's role in keeping them healthy. - Increase recognition of landowner connection to healthy watersheds. - Broader representation/greater variation of populations represented in the Oregon watershed stories. |
| | 2. Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches | <p><i>Medium Term (3-6 years)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify the needs, opportunities, and gaps that non-traditional partners can fill. - Work with the conservation partnership to engage with non-traditional partners toward a common goal, including organizations that may have different, but overlapping missions. - Support stakeholders as they work to engage more diverse partners | | | |
| Priority 2 - Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians | | | | | |
| Strategies | 1. Listen, learn and gather Information about diverse populations | <p>We Do This: (actions) <i>Short Term (1-3 years):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With partners, survey our grantees to learn about the demographics of their stakeholders. - Meet with other state and federal partners who are already doing DEI work to learn, understand available resources and find ways to partner. - Hold trainings for staff and board regarding both DEI and the state's unique relationship with tribes. | <p>So That: (outputs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OWEB board and staff have been trained in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). - OWEB has DEI capacity. - OWEB grantees and partners have access to DEI tools and resources. - DEI are incorporated into OWEB grant programs, as appropriate. - OWEB staff and board develop awareness of how social, economic, and cultural differences impact individuals, organizations and business practices. - OWEB staff and board share a common understanding of OWEB's unique relationship with tribes. - Board and staff regularly engage with underrepresented partnerships and stakeholder groups to support DEI work. | <p>To Make This Difference: (outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New and varied populations are engaged in watershed restoration - Grantees and partners actively use DEI tools and resources to recruit a greater diversity of staff, board members and volunteers. - Increased engagement of under-represented communities in OWEB grant programs and programs of our stakeholders. - OWEB, state agencies, and other funders consider opportunities to fund natural resource projects with a DEI lens. | <p>Evaluated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased awareness by grantees of gaps in community representation. - Increased representation of Grantees and partners from diverse communities on boards, staff, and as volunteers. - Increased funding provided to culturally diverse stakeholders and populations. |
| | 2. Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table | <p><i>Medium term (3-6 years):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Following implementation of Strategy 2.1, develop work plan to expand diversity, equity and inclusion through OWEB's programs, staff, and board. - Build diversity, equity, and inclusion conversations and training in to staff and board onboarding processes. | | | |
| | 3. Develop funding strategies with a lens toward diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) | <p><i>Medium Term (3-6 years)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Activities will be built out after OWEB's initial listening and learning in years 1-3 of the strategic plan. | | | |

Priority 3 - Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

| | | | | | |
|------------|--|--|---|---|--|
| Strategies | <p>1. Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB's past capacity funding</p> | <p>We Do This: (actions) <i>Short Term (1-3 years):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange information with other funders to learn how they invest in organizational capacity. - Complete a qualitative and quantitative evaluation of past council and SWCD capacity investments. - Quantitative: Understand what our capacity dollars are already funding and the local accomplishments. - Qualitative: Interview current and previous SWCD/WC staff and board members. <p><i>Medium Term (3-6 years):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify lessons learned. Share with partners (funders, state and federal agencies). - Use lessons learned to continue to adaptively manage capacity funding going forward. | <p>So That: (outputs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data exists to better understand the impacts of OWEB's capacity investments - Help exists for local groups to define their restoration 'community' for purposes of partnership/community capacity investments. - A suite of alternative options exists to invest in capacity to support conservation outcomes. - New mechanisms are available for watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts to report on outcomes of capacity funding. | <p>To Make This Difference: (outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partners access best community capacity and strategic practices and approaches. - OWEB can clearly tell the story of the value of capacity funds. - Funders are aware of the importance of funding capacity. - Lessons learned from past capacity investments inform funding decisions. - Restoration projects involving multiple agencies are implemented more efficiently and effectively - State-federal agencies increase participation in strategic partnerships. | <p>Evaluated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in indicators of capacity for entities. - Increased restoration project effectiveness from cross-agency efforts. - Increase in funding for capacity by funders other than OWEB. |
| | <p>2. Champion best approaches to build organizational, community, and partnership capacity</p> | <p><i>Short term (1-3 years):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyze other capacity funding models, including diverse, non-traditional approaches. - Explore and share information and best practices on high-performing partnerships. - Explore geographic/regional capacity funding to fill core capacity functions, incorporating results from the retrospective evaluation. - Provide funding and support for regional shared services <p><i>Medium Term (3-6 years):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Considering the life cycle of a partnership, community opportunities, and gaps, identify resources needed to improve stability for organizations, partnerships, and the restoration community. - Based on research, implement a pilot to test new ways for supporting organizational, community and/or partnership capacity. - Use results of research to evaluate OWEB's spending plan and fund allocation for Operating Capacity. - Assess needs for providing information to help foster a statewide network of high-performing partners. <p><i>Long Term (6-10 years):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review results of pilot and make any adjustments to OWEB's Operating Capacity funding. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A set of streamlined cross-agency processes exist to more effectively implement restoration projects. - Local capacity strengths and gaps are identified to address and implement large-scale conservation solutions . | | |
| | <p>3. Continue to catalyze and increase state/federal agency participation in strategic partnerships</p> | <p><i>Short term (1-3 years)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinate with federal and state agency OWEB board members to highlight the importance of agency collaboration. - Work with federal and state agency OWEB board members to continue to elevate the need for conservation and restoration coordination among agencies. - Continue to support existing effective federal/state agency partnerships, including providing updates at Board and interagency meetings | | | |

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

| Strategies | | <u>We Do This: (actions)</u> | <u>So That: (outputs)</u> | <u>To Make This Difference: (outcomes)</u> | <u>Evaluated by:</u> |
|------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1. Increase coordination of public restoration investments and develop funding vision | <p><u>We Do This: (actions)</u></p> <p><i>Short Term (1-3 years)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Map the landscape of natural resource funding around the state and identify areas for potential alignment. - Update OWEB mitigation policy to increase clarity around OWEB investments and how they work with mitigation funding. - <i>Medium Term (3-6 years)</i> - Research approaches to increase state-level granting across agencies. - Identify opportunities to leverage mitigation and restoration investments across state agencies. - Work with state-level agencies to develop state investment vision. - Identify innovative public agency investment strategies to better align with other funders. | <p><u>So That: (outputs)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OWEB has a clear understanding of its role in coordinating funding. - OWEB and other state and federal agencies have developed a system for formal communication and coordination around grants and other investments. - OWEB and partners have a coordinated outreach strategy for increasing watershed investments by state agencies, foundations, and corporations. - Foundations and corporations are informed about the important restoration work occurring in Oregon and understand the additional community benefits of restoration projects. - Foundations and corporations know OWEB, how the agency's investments work, and how they can partner. - Foundations and corporations understand the importance of investing in healthy watersheds - Foundations and corporations consider restoration investments in their investment portfolios. - Oregon companies that depend on healthy watersheds are aware of the opportunity to invest in watershed health. | <p><u>To Make This Difference: (outcomes)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agencies have a shared vision about how to invest strategically in restoration. - Oregon has a comprehensive analysis of the state's natural and built infrastructure to direct future investments. - Foundations and corporations are partners in watershed funding efforts. - Foundations and corporations increase their investment in restoration. - Natural resources companies are implementing watershed health work that is also environmentally sustainable. | <p><u>Evaluated by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased match amount and diversity of match in projects - Increase in new and diverse funding sources. - Increase in creative funding mechanisms and strategies. - Increased high-quality conservation and restoration projects are funded without OWEB investment - Increased funding for bold and innovative, non-traditional investments |
| | 2. Seek alignment of common investment areas with private foundations | <p><i>Short Term (1-3 years):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Map the landscape of natural resource funding around the state and identify areas for potential alignment. - Utilize existing convenings to highlight OWEB successes and open a dialogue with funders about co-investment. - <i>Medium Term (3-6 years):</i> - Use existing networks to meet with funders as the opportunities arise. - Explore opportunities for expanding conversations with foundations. - Share OWEB's innovations with private foundations to encourage their investment in conservation. - Identify new and innovative foundation investment strategies to better align with other funders. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foundations and corporations know OWEB, how the agency's investments work, and how they can partner. - Foundations and corporations understand the importance of investing in healthy watersheds - Foundations and corporations consider restoration investments in their investment portfolios. - Oregon companies that depend on healthy watersheds are aware of the opportunity to invest in watershed health. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agencies have a shared vision about how to invest strategically in restoration. - Oregon has a comprehensive analysis of the state's natural and built infrastructure to direct future investments. - Foundations and corporations are partners in watershed funding efforts. - Foundations and corporations increase their investment in restoration. - Natural resources companies are implementing watershed health work that is also environmentally sustainable. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased match amount and diversity of match in projects - Increase in new and diverse funding sources. - Increase in creative funding mechanisms and strategies. - Increased high-quality conservation and restoration projects are funded without OWEB investment - Increased funding for bold and innovative, non-traditional investments |
| | 3. Explore creative funding opportunities/partnerships with the private sector | <p><i>Short-term (1-3 years):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Map the landscape of natural resource funding around the state and identify areas for potential alignment. - <i>Medium term (3-6 years)</i> - Partner with foundations to develop messages around the economic, environmental, and community values of conservation investments for corporations. - <i>Long term (6-10 years)</i> - Identify new and innovative corporate investment strategies to better align with other funders. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foundations and corporations know OWEB, how the agency's investments work, and how they can partner. - Foundations and corporations understand the importance of investing in healthy watersheds - Foundations and corporations consider restoration investments in their investment portfolios. - Oregon companies that depend on healthy watersheds are aware of the opportunity to invest in watershed health. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agencies have a shared vision about how to invest strategically in restoration. - Oregon has a comprehensive analysis of the state's natural and built infrastructure to direct future investments. - Foundations and corporations are partners in watershed funding efforts. - Foundations and corporations increase their investment in restoration. - Natural resources companies are implementing watershed health work that is also environmentally sustainable. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased match amount and diversity of match in projects - Increase in new and diverse funding sources. - Increase in creative funding mechanisms and strategies. - Increased high-quality conservation and restoration projects are funded without OWEB investment - Increased funding for bold and innovative, non-traditional investments |
| | 4. Partner to design strategies for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources | <p><i>Short Term (1-3 years)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify areas of alignment between state climate change legislation and initiatives and OWEB funding. - Partner to develop inventory, assessment, and prioritization approaches to identify water and other associated infrastructure needs. <p><i>Medium-Long Term (3-10 years)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify additional areas of alignment for new and creative investment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foundations and corporations know OWEB, how the agency's investments work, and how they can partner. - Foundations and corporations understand the importance of investing in healthy watersheds - Foundations and corporations consider restoration investments in their investment portfolios. - Oregon companies that depend on healthy watersheds are aware of the opportunity to invest in watershed health. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agencies have a shared vision about how to invest strategically in restoration. - Oregon has a comprehensive analysis of the state's natural and built infrastructure to direct future investments. - Foundations and corporations are partners in watershed funding efforts. - Foundations and corporations increase their investment in restoration. - Natural resources companies are implementing watershed health work that is also environmentally sustainable. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased match amount and diversity of match in projects - Increase in new and diverse funding sources. - Increase in creative funding mechanisms and strategies. - Increased high-quality conservation and restoration projects are funded without OWEB investment - Increased funding for bold and innovative, non-traditional investments |

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

| Strategies | 1. Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program | <p>We Do This: (actions)</p> <p><i>Short Term (1-3 years)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide leadership for the Agricultural Heritage Commission. - Facilitate the Commission’s development of program rules. - Implement surveys and otherwise solicit the level of interest in the granting programs under the Commission’s purview to determine annual funding needs. - Support existing and new land trusts, soil and water conservation districts and other working land easement partners as they work with landowners interested in the program. | <p>So That: (outputs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Landowner engagement strategies and tools are developed and used by local conservation organizations - Strategies and stories are being utilized to reach owners and managers of working lands who are not currently working with local organizations. - Local organizations have the technical assistance to address gaps in implementing working land conservation projects. - Examples of successful working lands conservation projects are available for local organizations to use. - New partners are engaged with owners and operators of working lands to increase conservation. - The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission has administrative rules and stable funding for the OAHF to protect working lands. - Local capacity exists to implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. | <p>To Make This Difference: (outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generations of landowners continue to integrate conservation on their working lands while maintaining economic sustainability. - Fully functioning working landscapes remain resilient into the future. - Across the state, local partners have the resources necessary to better facilitate why and where restoration opportunities exist on working lands. - Sustained vitality of Oregon’s natural resources industries. | <p>Evaluated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased conservation awareness amongst owners and managers of working lands. - A better understanding of conservation participation, barriers and incentives for working lands owners. - Expanded relationships with agriculture and forestry associations. - Increased engagement of owners and managers of working lands conservation projects. - Increased working lands conservation projects on farm, ranch, and forest lands. - Expanded working lands partnerships improve habitat and water quality. - Expanded funding opportunities exist for working lands conservation. |
|------------|---|--|--|--|---|
| | 2. Strengthen engagement with a broad base of landowners | <p><i>Short-term (1-3 years)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invest with grantees and working lands advocates to survey landowners to better understand their motivation and barriers to implementing conservation. - Develop and design training and information sharing approaches. - <i>Medium Term (3-6 years)</i> - Work with partners to develop a pathway to increase working lands projects. - Work with partners to identify and support technical assistance to work with owners and managers of working lands. | | | |
| | 3. Enhance the work of partners to increase working lands projects on farm, ranch and forestlands | <p><i>Medium Term (3-6 years)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Train review teams about the value of working lands for conservation. - Based on lessons learned from strategy 5.2, identify funding and funding gaps for working lands conservation projects. - Convene resource specialists to help identify species, habitat and water quality needs/opportunities and where they intersect with working lands; share this information broadly. - Establish and facilitate a state technical group to identify and recommend approaches to invest in technical support tools for local partners. | | | |
| | 4. Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working land | <p><i>Medium Term (3-6 years)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate assessment of technical assistance needs. - Increase investment in technical assistance to grantees and working lands advocates. - Design monitoring and evaluation strategies for working lands restoration. - <i>Long term (6-10 years)</i> - Develop technical assessment materials to meet the needs of specific audiences. | | | |
| | 5. Develop engagement strategies for owners/managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional activities will be developed based on lessons learned from strategy 5.2. | | | |

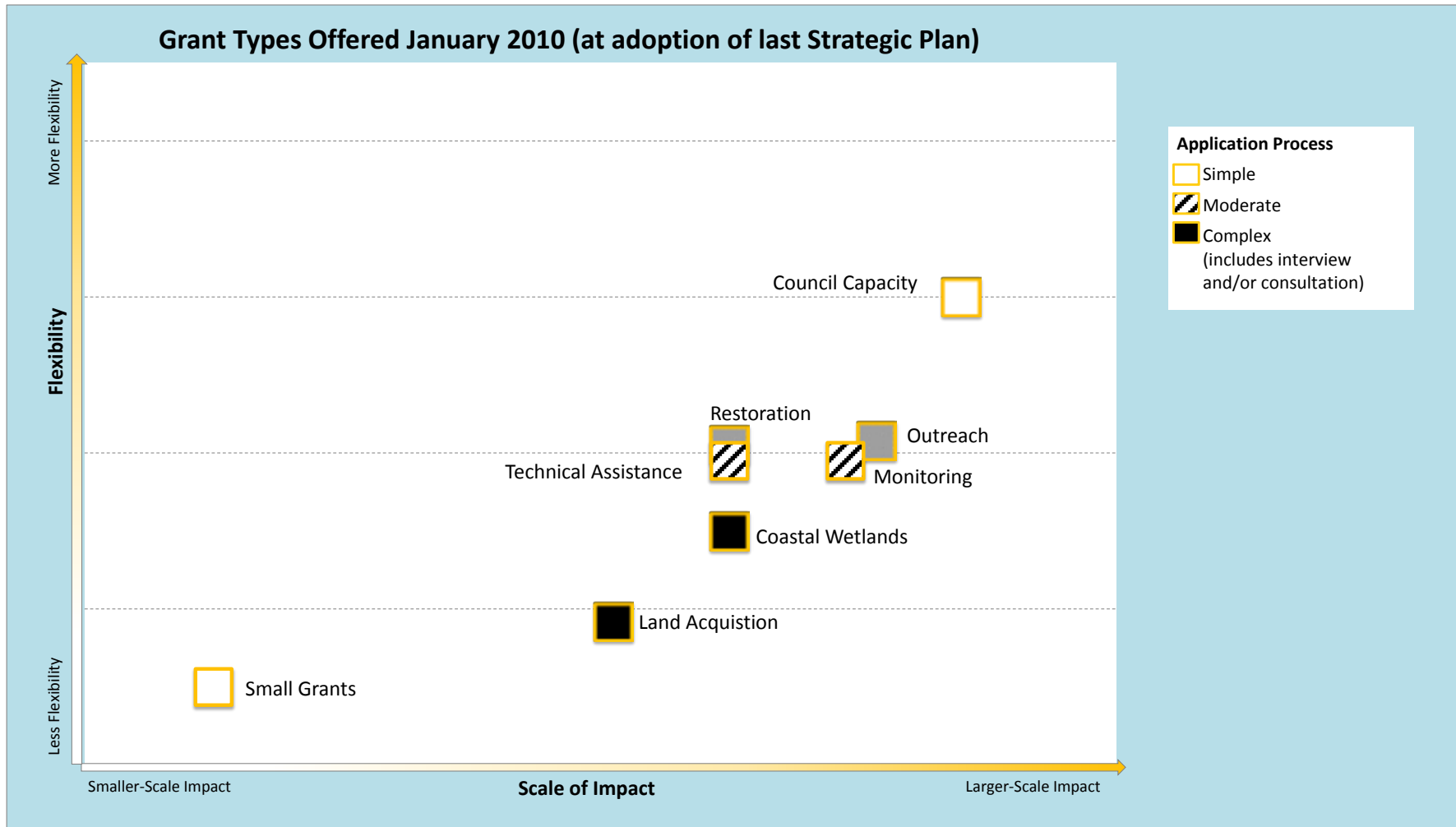
Priority 6 - Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|--|---|---|---|
| Strategies | <p>1. Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts</p> | <p>We Do This: (actions) <i>Short term (1-3 years):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess what information is readily available for tracking restoration results, outcomes, and impact and improve the quality and relevance of data collected as appropriate. - Work with grantees and other local partners to identify the best ways to communicate outcomes. - Build on existing processes for ‘telling the story’ to effectively interpret scientific information and communicate results in ways that are meaningful to diverse audiences. <p><i>Medium-Long Term (3-10 years):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Link refinements to OWEB’s monitoring grant-making to OWEB’s approach to ‘telling the story of restoration’ and adaptively manage. - Continue to explore new and diverse ways to use online and social media. - Continue to build on successful awareness and communication efforts, expanding OWEB’s ability to reach new or under-represented sectors or demographic groups. | <p>So That: (outputs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional technical resources—such as guidance and tools—are developed and/or made accessible to monitoring practitioners. - Priorities are proactively established and clearly articulated to plan for adequate monitoring resources that describe restoration investment outcomes. - Monitoring practitioners focus efforts on priority monitoring needs. - A network of experts is available to help grantees develop and implement successful monitoring projects. - Information is readily available to wide audiences to incorporate into adaptive management and strategic planning at the local level. - A dedicated process exists for continually improving how restoration outcomes are defined and described. - Strategic monitoring projects receive long-term funding | <p>To Make This Difference: (outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results. - Limited monitoring resources are focused on appropriate, high-quality, prioritized monitoring being conducted by state agencies, local groups, and federal agencies conducting monitoring. - Local organizations integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning. - Evaluation of impact, not just effort, is practiced broadly. - Impacts on ecological, economic and social factors are considered as a part of successful monitoring efforts. - Partners are using results-based restoration ‘stories’ to share conservation successes and lessons learned. - Monitoring frameworks are developed and shared. - Monitoring results that can be visualized across time and space are available at local, watershed and regional scales. - Limited monitoring resources provide return on investment for priority needs. | <p>Evaluated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased public awareness about the outcomes and effects of watershed restoration and why it matters to Oregonians - Increased utilization of effective and strategic monitoring practices by grantees and partners - Improved restoration and monitoring actions on the ground to meet local and state needs. - Increase in local organizations that integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning. - Increased engagement and support of restoration and conservation activities. - Increased decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results. - Increased ability to evaluate social change that leads to ecological outcomes. |
| | <p>2. Invest in monitoring over the long term</p> | <p><i>Short-Medium term (2-4 years):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess existing coordinated monitoring efforts and/or teams to understand how they have functioned. - Evaluate past OWEB investments in paired restoration and large-scale monitoring, FIP monitoring, and long standing monitoring projects/programs. <p><i>Long Term (5-10 years):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop recommendations for the board about long-term investments in monitoring, and criteria for applicants to address the board priorities for long-term investments in monitoring. | | | |
| | <p>3. Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring</p> | <p><i>Short-Medium Term (1-5 years):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prioritize findings of OWEB’s monitoring application guidance development process, develop a work plan for refining the agency’s monitoring grant-making, and begin implementation of the plan. <i>Example activities include:</i> - Compiling and communicating lessons learned from past monitoring investments. - Developing guidance documents for restoration and monitoring practitioners. | | | |
| | <p>4. Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners</p> | <p>We Do This: (actions) <i>Medium-Term (3-5 years):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore and support existing information-sharing venues to share results of research and monitoring, including existing workshops, symposia, regional monitoring gatherings, and peer exchanges. - Share information about resources and tools available through existing regional networks. - Continue to coordinate with other states on opportunities for action-specific monitoring partnerships. | | | |

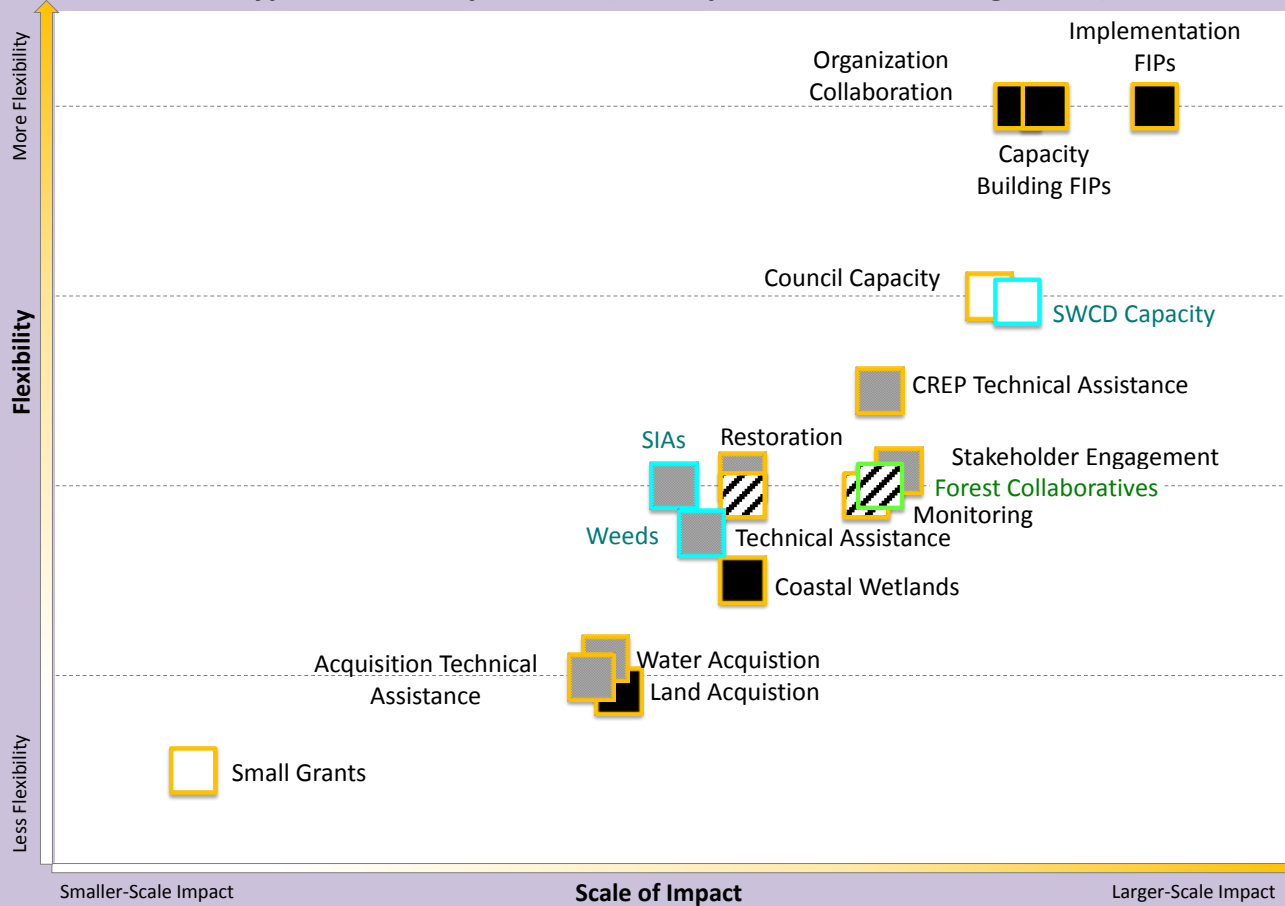
| | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| Strategies | | <p><i>Long-Term (5-10 years):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore the value of helping to organize informal networks that include scientists/researchers, technical/monitoring experts, and restoration practitioners. | | | |
| | 5. Define monitoring priorities | <p><i>Medium-Term (3-5 years):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess and define what OWEB wants to achieve through monitoring. - Review the findings from other strategies under the Coordinated Monitoring priority. <p><i>Long-Term (5-10 years):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft monitoring priorities for consideration by the full board - Use funding conversations with foundations and state agencies under Priority 4 to explore areas of common interest in funding monitoring, including assessment of other interested and willing funders. | | | |
| | 6. Develop and promote a monitoring framework | <p><i>Medium-Term (3-5 years):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue implementation of current monitoring efforts and evaluate the use of approaches that bridge larger-to-smaller scales. - Evaluate existing monitoring strategies and consider their appropriateness as a foundation for developing a monitoring framework. - Share information with restoration and monitoring practitioners about existing and emerging data integration and visualization tools. | | | |

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

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|---|---|---|--|
| Strategies | 1. Invest in landscape restoration over the long term | <p>We Do This: (actions)</p> <p><i>Short term (1-3 years)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to fund long-term activities that lead to landscape scale restoration. - Develop evaluation processes for individual restoration grants that reward projects that may entail risk, but offer big potential upsides. <p><i>Medium term (3-6 years)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluate if other OWEB grant programs may be necessary to successfully invest in landscape scale restoration. | <p>So That: (outputs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OWEB works with partners to share results of landscape scale restoration with broader conservation community. - OWEB and partners have a better understanding of how restoration approaches can be mutually beneficial for working lands and watershed health. - OWEB's landscape-scale granting involves effective partnerships around the state. | <p>To Make This Difference: (outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multi-phased, high-complexity, and large geographic footprint restoration projects are underway. - OWEB's investment approaches recognize the dual conservation and economic drivers and benefits of watershed actions, where appropriate. - Diverse, non-traditional projects and activities that contribute to watershed health are now funded that weren't previously. - Conservation communities value an experimental approach to learning and innovation. - Conservation communities become comfortable with properties and projects that show potential, even if the work is not demonstrated based on demonstrated past performance. - OWEB becomes better able to evaluate risk - OWEB encourages a culture of innovation. | <p>Evaluated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased watershed restoration footprint statewide. - Increased money for innovative watershed work from diverse funding sources. - Increased learning from bold and innovative actions so future decisions result in healthy watersheds in Oregon - New players or sectors—such as healthcare providers—engaged to invest in watershed restoration, enhancement and protection. |
| | 2. Develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economies | <p><i>Medium to long-term (4-10 years)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research cutting edge science that involves working lands and conservation outcomes. - Identify economic impacts of healthy fish runs, water quality, and healthy watersheds. - Develop resources that can help our partners in conservation communicate the economic benefits of restoration. | | | |
| | 3. Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB's mission | <p><i>Short term (1-3 years)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capture lessons learned from restoration and partnership investments and share with restoration practitioners to identify areas for innovation and increased risk-taking. - Develop approaches that allow grantees the space to clearly articulate risks and benefits of new and innovative approaches. <p><i>Medium term (3-6 years)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop board and staff capacity to evaluate risk and to be able to weigh risk of innovation against proposed benefits. | | | |



Grant Types Offered April 2018 (at adoption of new Strategic Plan)



Application Process

- Simple
- Moderate
- Complex (includes interview and/or consultation)

Partner Agency

- Managed in coordination with ODA
- Non-OWEB funds, managed for ODF



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item E-2 - Strategic Plan Implementation Grants and Governor's Priorities
June 27, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

A number of priorities and strategies within OWEB's strategic plan will benefit from a broad partnership approach to their implementation. Staff will request the board include a new line in its spending plan to work with various partners to implement components of the newly adopted strategic plan, delegating authority to the director to enter into appropriate agreements.

Staff will also request delegation of authority to the director to invest Governor's Priority grant funds to support the Governor's priority tied to Strategic Plan implementation strategy 4.4 – "Partner to design strategies for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources."

II. Opportunities for Partnership through Strategic Plan Implementation Grants

As OWEB staff reviewed the strategic plan, a number of areas are ripe for partnership, either to gather more information, to develop and complete monitoring, or to begin to implement key plan elements. Oregon has many highly equipped organizations that are poised to assist in this effort. However, funding may be needed in some instances to support organizational work. Examples include:

- **Priority 3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds.** Partnerships with the university system and experts in community capacity to design and implement monitoring for OWEB's capacity investments and analysis of current community capacity baseline, needs and gaps. This also supports the board's monitoring priority (6).
- **Priority 5: The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health.** Partnerships with Oregon agricultural and forestry organizations to implement strategies within this priority focused on community engagement and increasing access to technical assistance for landowners.

In addition to grants, some areas of strategic plan implementation are better suited to direct contracts with vendors who provide training or other services. An example is under **Priority 2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians**. In this case, there are a number of organizations who do provide training and other technical services. Contracts are managed under OWEB's current operating budget, outside of the board's grant spending plan.

III. Opportunities for Partnership through Governor's Priorities Funding

In addition to specific investments through the Strategic Plan Implementation grants line item in the spending plan, one of the strategies within **Priority 4: Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio**, ties directly to one of Governor Brown's priorities. Governor Brown is seeking to ensure a secure and resilient water future for all Oregonians. This specifically connects to the board's strategy 4.4: "Partner to design strategies for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources." The Governor's office and staff are requesting the board consider grant investments in this area to support both the board and Governor's priority. Work would focus on:

- Understanding the context for change, including what has been accomplished in other areas;
- Helping to better define and frame Oregon's water 'story' as it relates to community resiliency, economy, and health;
- Better understanding of who is working where, and why; and
- Developing a shared vision and path.

IV. Recommendation: Spending Plan Line Item Addition and Funding Requests

Given the strong connection with partners around some of the board's strategic plan areas, staff request the board consider two proposals:

1. An addition of a line item to the spending plan: Strategic Plan Implementation, totaling \$500,000. Staff request the board delegate authority to the director to enter into specific grant agreements that meet Measure 76 constitutional requirements and support implementation of the board's strategic plan. Staff and grantees will report both grants funded and associated progress to the board at their quarterly meetings.
2. Approval of \$65,450 from the Governor's Priority line item in the spending plan to support the Governor's work to ensure a secure and resilient water future for all Oregonians, and delegate to the director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of June 27, 2018.



Oregon

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item F - Technical Assistance Grants Administrative Rules
June 27, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report requests board approval on proposed administrative rules for OWEB's Technical Assistance (TA) grant program.

II. Background

At the July 2017 meeting, the board authorized staff to initiate rulemaking for TA grants. OWEB does not currently have rules specifically for TA grants; instead the grants are authorized under Division 5, OWEB Grant Program administrative rules, which is a broad rule division that encompasses all of OWEB grants.

A rules advisory committee (RAC) was established to assist OWEB staff in developing TA administrative rules. A list of RAC members is found in Attachment A. The RAC met on two occasions between February and April to discuss concepts to include in rule language and to provide feedback on draft rules. OWEB staff incorporated these concepts into draft rules based on three TA grant categories:

- Organizational Technical Assistance Grants for groups of collaborating organizations seeking to improve organizational effectiveness to support actions that are necessary for carrying out eligible conservation actions or programs that lead to development of eligible projects;
- Resource Assessment and Planning Grants to support the development of information about existing water quality or habitat conditions and processes at an identified scale, and relates those conditions and processes to actions that will directly lead to desired future conditions; and
- Technical Design and Engineering Grants to support the development of project feasibility, designs, or engineering materials that directly lead to site-specific restoration or acquisition projects.

III. Public Comment on Proposed TA Grants Administrative Rules

OWEB released draft rule amendments for public comment on May 1, 2018. The public comment period was open from May 1 - May 31, 2018 with a public hearing in Salem on May 22. A summary of the written comments received during the public comment period, and OWEB staff response, are provided in Attachment B. At its June meeting, the board may only

receive public comment on the revisions to the proposed rules that have occurred since the close of the public comment period.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve the TA grants administrative rules found in Attachment C.

Attachments

- A. TA Grants RAC Members
- B. Public Comments Received and Staff Response
- C. Proposed TA Grants Rules

Technical Assistance Grants Rules Advisory Committee Members

Brian Barr, Rogue River Watershed Council

Aaron Bliesener, Union Soil and Water Conservation District

Theresa DeBardelaben, Oregon Department of Agriculture

Chris Gannon, Crooked River Watershed Council

Nancy Gramlich, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Bryce Hill, Baker County Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Amy Horstman, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Haley Lutz, Nestucca-Neskowin and Sand Lake Watersheds Council

Eric Riley, Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Nell Scott, Trout Unlimited

Katie Voelke, North Coast Land Conservancy

Bryan Vogt, Monument Soil and Water Conservation District

Terry Warhol, Region 5 Regional Review Team and Retired U.S. Forest Service

Jared Weybright, McKenzie Watershed Council

Summary of Public Comments: Technical Assistance Grants Rules (Division 30)

| Rules: 695-030-0045, Evaluation Criteria for Resource Assessment and Planning Grants | | | |
|---|---|--|--------------------|
| Commenter(s) | Comments | Response | Rule Change |
| Thomas O'Neill, The Habitat Institute | Concerned that OWEB does not require an independent evaluation of work implemented through grants the agency has awarded. | Resource Assessment and Planning technical assistance grants are intended to gather information about water quality or habitat conditions and processes and relate those conditions and process to actions that will directly lead to desired conditions within a specific timeframe. Grantees are developing assessments and plans in order to guide future restoration and conservation efforts. These assessments and plans are often relied on to develop OWEB restoration or acquisition grant applications that are evaluated by interdisciplinary technical review teams that provide an independent evaluation of the restoration or conservation activities proposed. | No |

| Rule: General Comments | | | |
|--|---|---|--------------------|
| Commenter(s) | Comments | Response | Rule Change |
| Thomas O'Neill, The Habitat Institute | Concern that OWEB does not have a consistent metric to measure ecological gain from restoration projects. | The proposed technical assistance grants rules are intended for a program that offers grants for resource assessment and planning, technical design and engineering, and organizational technical assistance that are necessary for carrying out eligible restoration and acquisition projects or programs. While measuring ecological gain from restoration projects is an important consideration, it is unrelated to the proposed technical assistance grants rules. | No |

Division 30**Technical Assistance Grants****695-030-0005**

Purpose: As funds are available, the Board shall provide technical assistance grants for resource assessment and planning, technical design and engineering, and organizational technical assistance, that are necessary for carrying out eligible restoration and acquisition projects, or programs that lead to development of eligible projects, as described and required by ORS 541.956(4) and OR CONST Art. XV, §4b(2)(d).

695-030-0015**Definitions**

(1) “Delegated to the Director” means the grant funds that the Board has authorized to the Director to award and enter into appropriate agreements.

(2) “Organizational Technical Assistance Grants” means technical assistance grants for groups of collaborating organizations seeking to improve organizational effectiveness to support actions that are necessary for carrying out eligible programs that lead to development of eligible restoration and acquisition projects.

(3) “Professionally Accepted” means methodologies or techniques that have been vetted by experts in the field in which the applicant is seeking technical assistance.

(3) “Resource Assessment and Planning Grants” means technical assistance grants to support the development of information about existing water quality or habitat conditions and processes at an identified scale, and relates those conditions and processes to actions that will directly lead to desired future conditions within a specified timeframe.

(4) “Technical Design and Engineering Grants” means technical assistance grants to support the development of project feasibility reports, designs, or engineering materials that directly lead to site-specific restoration or acquisition projects within a specified timeframe.

(5) “Technical Review Team” means a team of designated personnel with relevant knowledge in technical assistance convened to evaluate grant applications, which includes established regional review teams as described in OAR 695-005-0020(4).

695-030-0025**Eligibility**

The Board will only consider technical assistance projects that will lead to eligible restoration or acquisition projects or programs.

695-030-0035

Application Requirements

Applications must be submitted on the most current form and process prescribed by the Board. Technical assistance applications must include a description of the direct connection the technical assistance project has with future restoration or acquisition projects or programs.

695-030-0045

Evaluation Criteria

Technical design and engineering grant applications will be evaluated on:

- (1) The extent to which the application describes a clear need for the proposed technical or engineering designs;
- (2) The extent to which the application describes how the technical design or engineering grant will address limiting factors designated in an existing conservation or recovery plan;
- (3) The extent to which the application describes an alternatives analysis demonstrating the applicant has considered the range of options in developing the application;
- (4) Whether the application contains, or proposes to collect, the appropriate data to inform the technical or engineering designs;
- (5) How the proposed costs are aligned with the work necessary to accomplish the objectives described in the application;
- (6) The qualifications of the technical staff of the applicant, or consultants to be retained, to accomplish the technical design or engineering activities described in the application;
- (7) The extent to which the application describes how the appropriate stakeholders will be engaged in the proposed technical or engineering design process;
- (8) The extent to which the application describes how professionally accepted technical or engineering approaches will be utilized;
- (9) The likelihood of success of the technical or engineering design project, including if the project will lead to future eligible restoration or acquisition projects; and
- (10) The organizational capacity of the applicant.

Resource Assessment and Planning grant applications will be evaluated on:

- (1) The extent to which the application contains professionally accepted resource gathering methods and parameters;

- (2) The extent to which the application describes a clear need to develop or update a resource assessment or planning document;
- (3) Whether the scope and scale of the resource assessment or planning actions described in the application is feasible;
- (4) The demonstrated ability of the applicant and partners described in the application to engage in collaborative work at the proposed scale;
- (5) The extent to which the application describes how appropriate stakeholders will be engaged in the development of the resource assessment or other planning;
- (6) How the proposed costs are aligned with the work necessary to accomplish the objectives described in the application;
- (7) The qualifications of the technical staff of the applicant, or consultants to be retained, to accomplish the resource assessment and planning activities described in the application;
- (8) The process by which data will be managed and shared with partners;
- (9) The likelihood that the project will result in a resource assessment or plan that leads to future eligible restoration or acquisition projects; and
- (10) The organizational capacity of the applicant.

Organizational technical assistance grant applications will be evaluated on:

- (1) The degree to which the application demonstrates support and engagement from the appropriate stakeholders;
- (2) The likely effectiveness of communication among the applicant and partners;
- (3) The extent to which the application describes partner roles and responsibilities;
- (4) The performance history and composition of the partnership;
- (5) How the proposed costs are aligned with the work necessary to accomplish the objectives described in the application;
- (6) The qualifications of the technical staff of the applicant, or consultants to be retained, to accomplish the activities described in the application;
- (7) The extent to which the application describes why the opportunity for organizational technical assistance is timely;
- (8) The extent to which the application identifies a common vision of success and potential barriers to success of the project;

(9) The likelihood of success of the organizational technical assistance project, including if the project will lead to future eligible restoration or acquisition projects; and

(10) The organizational capacity of the applicant.

695-030-0050

Definitions

~~(1) "Watershed Action Plan Project" means a project that identifies and prioritizes potential action that would benefit watershed conditions based on problems identified in a watershed assessment.~~

~~(2) "Watershed Assessment Project" means a project that systematically reviews existing information about watershed conditions and processes such as erosion rates, pollution sources, fish habitat conditions, riparian conditions, culvert fish passage problems, etc., and relates those conditions and processes to desired future conditions.~~

695-030-0055

Technical Review Process

(1) For technical assistance grant applications seeking grant funds that require the Board to make a funding decision:

(a) A technical review team will be convened to review technical assistance grant applications.

(b) Prior to the technical review team meeting, the technical review team:

(A) Shall receive each application, past evaluations for projects resubmitted in the current grant cycle, and an evaluation sheet that references criteria as described in OAR 695-030-0050 to complete for each application;

(B) Shall evaluate each application based on the information provided.

(c) At the technical review team meeting, the technical review team shall:

(A) Review and evaluate each project individually based on how well the proposed project meets the criteria in OAR 695-030-0050;

(B) Recommend the project as:

(i) Do fund;

(ii) Do fund with conditions;

(iii) Do not fund; or

(iv) Defer to staff or the Board with an explanation, if there is a policy issue or budget issue that needs to be addressed by the Board prior to a funding decision; and

(C) Rank order all projects recommended for funding based on how well the project meets the criteria established in OAR 695-030-0050.

(d) The project description, summary evaluation and funding recommendation for all projects, and the rank order of projects recommended for funding shall be forwarded from the technical review team to Board staff for their consideration. This information will be provided to all applicants and to the Board.

(2) For technical assistance grant applications seeking grant funds that have been delegated to the Director:

(a) A technical review team will be convened to review technical assistance grant applications.

(b) The technical review team shall review and evaluate each project individually based on how well the proposed project meets the criteria in OAR 695-030-0050 and provide evaluations and funding recommendations to OWEB staff. This information will be provided to the applicants.

~~695-030-0060~~

~~Assessment and Action Plan Priorities~~

~~For grant applications to be funded by the Watershed Conservation Grant Fund, the following preferences will apply:~~

~~(1) Watershed assessment projects that address whole basin conditions to focus restoration needs over single-function research projects; and~~

~~(2) Projects developed from a watershed-level assessment and analysis of conditions that includes an action plan for restoration or enhancement of watershed functions.~~

695-030-0065

Staff Funding Recommendation Process

(1) For technical assistance grant applications seeking grant funds that require the Board to make a funding decision:

(a) Staff shall review the recommendations from each technical review team and make a statewide funding recommendation to the Board based on available resources for the grant offering and type. The recommendation shall include any conditions placed on individual projects and may include proposed budget adjustments. The staff recommendation, as represented in the staff report to the Board, shall be sent to applicants and members of the technical review teams at least two weeks before the Board meeting where funding decisions are to be made.

(b) Applicants may provide written or oral comment to the Board on the staff recommendation prior to the Board decision.

(2) For technical assistance grant applications seeking grant funds that have been delegated to the Director, staff shall review the recommendations from each technical review team and make a funding recommendation to the Director based on available resources for the grant offering and type. The recommendation shall include any conditions placed on individual projects and may include proposed budget adjustments. The staff recommendation shall be provided to the applicants.

695-030-0075

Funding Decision

(1) For technical assistance grant applications seeking grant funds that require the Board to make a funding decision:

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

(b) Projects not funded may be resubmitted during future application submission periods.

(2) For technical assistance grant applications seeking grant funds that have been delegated to the Director:

(a) The Director may fund a project in whole or in part.

(b) Projects not funded may be resubmitted during future application submission periods.

695-030-0085

Grant Agreement Conditions

(1) The Grantee must agree to complete the project as approved by the Board and within the timeframe specified in the grant agreement unless proposed modifications are submitted and approved by the Director prior to the beginning of any work proposed in the modification.

(2) The Director will consider project modifications including expansion of funded projects with moneys remaining from the original project allocation if the purpose and intent of the amendment remains the same as the original project, the proposed activity is within the same geographic area, and the modification would be compatible with acknowledged comprehensive plans.

(3) The Director may authorize minor changes within the scope of the original project plan.

(4) The Grantee must submit a report at completion of the project in accordance with reporting requirements described in the grant agreement.

695-030-0095

Waiver and Periodic Review of Rules

The Director may waive the requirements of Division 30 for individual grant applications unless required by statute, when doing so will result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Board's technical assistance grant program. Any waiver must be in writing and included in the grant file to which the waiver applies. The administrative rules for technical assistance grants shall be periodically reviewed by the Board and revised as necessary and appropriate.

695-030-0100

Evaluation Criteria

~~Watershed Assessment and/or Action plan projects will be funded on the basis of the extent to which they:~~

- ~~(1) Are developed in the context of the entire watershed;~~
- ~~(2) Follow appropriate protocols developed by the Board; and~~
- ~~(3) Use the information to implement or direct projects to enhance or sustain the health of watersheds.~~

June 27, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update G-1: Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Update

Staff will update the board on the series of Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission meetings since the April board meeting and next steps for the commission and rulemaking.

Background

Following appointment by the board in January, the commission met six times, including meetings in April and May, when the commission reached consensus on a draft set of program rules governing grants for succession planning, technical assistance, conservation management plans, and conservation easements and covenants. As of the time of this submission, the commission will also meet on June 25 to recommend a final draft of the rules for public comment.

Rulemaking Schedule

Based on the commission's recommendation on June 25, the public comment period is expected to be held during the month of July, including two public hearings, one east and one west of the Cascades. The commission will review public comment at its August meeting and submit recommended rules to the board for adoption at its October meeting. See Attachment A for the complete rulemaking schedule.

Recommended Statutory Changes

Throughout the process of establishing rules for the program, a set of needed statutory changes were identified by the commission. Proposed statutory changes include:

- 1) Shifting language in ORS 541.982 to remove requirement that continued agricultural use be an affirmative obligation of a conservation easement.
- 2) Providing a more accurate description of the individuals who would be eligible to participate in succession planning programs in ORS 541.984.
- 3) Changing wording regarding conservation management plans from 'purchasing' plans to 'developing' plans in ORS 541.981 and ORS 541.984.
- 4) Revising technical assistance grant use in 541.984 to more accurately reflect the purpose of the grant funds, and to expand the eligible applicants to all organizations that are eligible to enter into conservation easements or covenants.
- 5) Changing language to be consistent throughout the statute regarding the relationship between the commission and the board in ORS 541.988.
- 6) Revising language to match OWEB's process where technical committees can either advise staff who make recommendations to the board/commission or can advise the board/commission directly in ORS 541.988.

Budget Request

At the June 25 meeting, the commission will recommend a 2019-2021 budget request of \$10 million to fund the grant programs authorized in statute. The budget request will be considered by the board on June 27.

Next Steps

To quantify the need for working lands easement funding, the commission will solicit letters of interest from eligible applicants working with committed landowners interested in entering into conservation easements. This information will be provided to legislators and other interested parties in time for consideration, along with recommended statutory changes, during the 2019 legislative session.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Eric Williams at eric.williams@oregon.gov or 503-986-0047.

Attachments

A. Rulemaking Schedule



Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Proposed Schedule for OAHP Rule Making

| Rulemaking Action | Dates/Deadlines |
|---|---|
| OWEB Board authorization for rulemaking | October 2017 |
| Develop rule headers/concepts | November – December 2017E |
| OWEB Board update and vote on Commissioners | January 31, 2018 |
| Commission Meeting #1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OAHP 101 • Rule headers • Succession planning rulemaking | Thursday, February 1, 2018 |
| Commission Meeting #2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review succession planning rules • Conservation Management Plan rulemaking | Thursday, February 22, 2018 |
| Commission Meeting #3: CMP rules | Thursday, March 8, 2018 |
| Commission Meeting #4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review succession planning rules • Conservation Management Plan rulemaking • Easement/Covenant rulemaking | Thursday, April 5, 2018 |
| Comm. Meeting #5: Easement/covenant rulemaking | Thursday, April 26, 2018 |
| Commission Meeting #6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easement/Covenant rulemaking • Technical Assistance rulemaking • Procedural rulemaking | Wednesday, May 23, 2018 afternoon Thursday, May 24, 2018 all day |
| Provide draft rules to DOJ for feedback | Early June, 2018 |
| Draft Statement Need & Fiscal/ Economic Impact | Early June, 2018 |
| Draft GovDelivery, Secretary of State notice, website | Early June, 2018 |
| Exec. Team review draft rules after DOJ feedback | Mid-June, 2018 |
| Notice filed with Secretary of State | June 20, 2018 |
| Board Update | June 25, 2018 |
| Public comment notice posted online and in Sec. of State bulletin; sent to GovDelivery and legislators | July 1, 2018 |
| Public comment period; hearings around the state | July 1 – July 31, 2018 |
| Exec. Team review and revise draft rules based on public comment | Early August, 2018 |
| Commission Meeting #7: Review public comment | Early August, 2018 |
| DOJ review any significant changes to rules | Mid-August, 2018 |
| Commission Meeting #8: Final draft of rules | Late August, 2018 |
| Send rules to Board to review | September 1, 2018 |
| Board vote on rules | October 2018 |
| Board submit final rules to Secretary of State | October/November 2018 |



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator
Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item H – 2017-2019 Spending Plan Update
June 27, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report requests the board's approval of an update to the 2017-2019 spending plan, following receipt of funding from multiple sources.

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 coming from Lottery and Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funding (PCSRF). In addition, the board may receive funding from other sources throughout the biennium, including funding from sources such as Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program, and other federal and state agencies. The Oregon Legislature allocates PCSRF funding for OWEB's budget based on estimated federal grant awards over the two years of each biennium.

At its July 2017 meeting, the board adopted a 2017-2019 spending plan totaling \$97.599 million, after accounting for carry-forward amounts and adjustments to individual spending plan line items based on board action. Based on the board's decision at the July 2017 meeting, the Small Grant Program and carryforward addition was finalized in January at \$3.150. In April, the board added \$3.5 million to the spending plan for a to-date total of \$100.949. Attachment A shows the approved spending plan, including recommendations for additional PCSRF funding if those funds became available.

III. 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

NOAA Fisheries. Oregon has received more than \$221 million from PCSRF for salmon and steelhead recovery efforts in that time. 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 applies for PCSRF funding on behalf of the State of Oregon. For FFY 2018, OWEB requested the maximum allowable \$25 million. Oregon provides the required 33% match through a combination of lottery funding, salmon license plate revenues, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

NOAA has tentatively awarded the state \$15.2 million in PCSRF funding for FFY 2018, contingent on a final revised grant application from OWEB. This amount is larger than the FFY 2017 award amount, which was \$14.65 million. Of the total award, \$5.1 million is available for grants in the 2017-19 spending plan, with the remainder invested in support of OWEB staff costs, distributed to ODFW, or held in reserve for future biennia spending plans.

Attachment A 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 2017 meeting. Staff recommend \$3.45 million be added to the Open Solicitation Restoration line item, \$700,000 be added to the Open Solicitation Technical Assistance line items for both Restoration and Acquisitions, \$250,000 be added to the Open Solicitation Monitoring line item, and \$700,000 be added to the Open Solicitation Land and Water Acquisitions line item. These categories align with NOAA's top priorities for its investments and match categories the board identified at its July 2017 meeting as areas for additional investment.

IV. USFWS National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program

In 2017, OWEB submitted a National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program application to support acquisition and conservation of approximately 90 acres of coastal wetlands, riparian areas, and conifer forests on the Columbia River Estuary. In April 2018, the USFWS announced that the South Tongue Point Conservation Project was awarded \$1,000,000 through the program. The project's primary local implementer is the Columbia Land Trust (CLT). The board awarded \$332,080 in acquisition funds at the April 2018 meeting, which will be used in combination with CLT contributions to meet the match requirement of the federal award.

V. Farm Bill Programs

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works collaboratively with local partners to implement conservation programs under the federal Farm Bill. Recently in Oregon there has been an increase in landowner interest in these programs, and NRCS has been unable to meet the increased demand. To meet this increased demand, NRCS has \$1 million available to OWEB to support the capacity of local organizations to assist NRCS in the local delivery of Farm Bill programs. In utilizing this funding, OWEB will work

with NRCS to develop a grant offering and administer the additional funds through existing watershed council and soil and water conservation district Operating Capacity grant agreements. Local organizations will partner directly with NRCS staff to provide the needed technical and administrative assistance to support the delivery and implementation of Farm Bill programs in Oregon.

The Oregon Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is a cooperative venture between the State of Oregon and the Farm Services Agency, with technical support from the NRCS and local implementers. The program restores riparian areas along agricultural lands to benefit fish, wildlife, and water quality. Landowners who voluntarily enroll in CREP receive annual rental payments and state and federal cost-share incentives to install approved conservation measures, such as planting riparian vegetation, and installing fencing and livestock water facilities.

The Oregon Department of Forestry has \$11,538 in federal CREP funds that are available to OWEB to conduct monitoring and tracking of CREP contracts. Funds will support a monitoring and tracking tools developed by OWEB staff and local CREP technicians. These tools will track performance of CREP practices over time and to help ensure landowners are achieving maintenance and performance requirements of their CREP contracts.

VI. Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW)

The IMW is designed to evaluate the implementation of watershed restoration projects over a large geography and extended period of time, with the intent of describing the collective benefits provided to salmon and steelhead populations, habitat, and water quality. OWEB provides overall direction and guidance to the study, and assists with securing funding for several monitoring aspects of the program.

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission has offered OWEB \$291,000 in support of the IMW monitoring efforts. Funding will enable partners to continue to perform priority monitoring activities in 2018-2019 and plan future monitoring efforts in this IMW beyond 2018. Partners include the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the North Fork John Day Watershed Council, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon.

VII. Recommendation

Staff recommend the Board approve distribution of PCSRF Federal Fiscal Year 2018 funding in the identified categories of OWEB's 2017-2019 spending plan, as outlined in Attachment A of the staff report.

Staff recommend the board approve receipt of funding as noted in Table I, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds, through the appropriate agreements with award dates listed in Table 1.

Table 1

| Funding Source | Amount | Award Date |
|--|-------------|-----------------|
| U.S Fish and Wildlife Service | \$1,000,000 | January 1, 2018 |
| Natural Resources Conservation Service | \$1,000,000 | June 27, 2018 |
| Oregon Department of Forestry | \$11,538 | June 27,2018 |
| Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission | \$291,000 | June 27, 2018 |

Attachments

- A. 2017-2019 OWEB spending plan, with proposed additions based on the receipt of FFY 2018 PCSRF funds and funds from other sources.

OWEB 2017-19 Proposed Spending Plan for the June 2018 Board Meeting

| | OWEB SPENDING PLAN | Spending Plan as of April 2018 | June 2018 additions for PCSRF | June 2018 Other additions | Spending Plan as of June 2018 | TOTAL Board Awards To-Date | Remaining Spending Plan after To-Date Awards | June 2018 Proposed Awards | Remaining Spending Plan after June 2018 awards | |
|----|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|--|
| 1 | Open Solicitation: | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Restoration (includes USFW Coastal Wetlands) | 29.550 | 3.450 | | 33.000 | 17.060 | 15.940 | | 15.940 | |
| 3 | Technical Assistance | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Restoration TA | 3.600 | 0.400 | | 4.000 | 1.844 | 2.156 | | 2.156 | |
| 5 | CREP TA (includes NRCS & ODF funds) | 1.375 | | 0.012 | 1.387 | 1.375 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.000 | |
| 6 | Stakeholder Engagement | 0.700 | | | 0.700 | 0.169 | 0.531 | | 0.531 | |
| 7 | Monitoring grants | 2.850 | 0.250 | | 3.100 | 1.784 | 1.316 | | 1.316 | |
| 8 | Land and Water Acquisition | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Acquisition (includes USFW Coastal Wetlands) | 8.200 | 0.700 | 1.000 | 9.900 | 5.630 | 4.270 | 1.000 | 3.270 | |
| 10 | Acquisition Technical Assistance | 0.300 | 0.300 | | 0.600 | 0.150 | 0.450 | | 0.450 | |
| 11 | Weed Grants | 3.000 | | | 3.000 | 3.000 | 0.000 | | 0.000 | |
| 12 | Small Grants | 3.150 | | | 3.150 | 3.150 | 0.000 | | 0.000 | |
| 13 | Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring | 1.587 | | | 1.587 | 0.556 | 1.031 | | 1.031 | |
| 14 | TOTAL | 54.312 | 5.100 | 1.012 | 60.424 | 34.718 | 25.706 | 1.012 | 24.694 | |
| 15 | % of assumed Total Budget | 60.97% | | | 62.45% | | | | | |
| 16 | Focused Investments: | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | Deschutes | 4.000 | | | 4.000 | 4.000 | 0.000 | | 0.000 | |
| 18 | Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat | 2.445 | | | 2.445 | 2.445 | 0.000 | | 0.000 | |
| 19 | Harney Basin Wetlands | 1.970 | | | 1.970 | 1.970 | 0.000 | | 0.000 | |
| 20 | Sage Grouse | 2.355 | | | 2.355 | 2.355 | 0.000 | | 0.000 | |
| 21 | Ashland Forest All-Lands | 2.340 | | | 2.340 | 2.340 | 0.000 | | 0.000 | |
| 22 | Upper Grande Ronde | 2.417 | | | 2.417 | 2.417 | 0.000 | | 0.000 | |
| 23 | Capacity-Building FIPs | 1.150 | | | 1.150 | 0.572 | 0.578 | | 0.578 | |
| 24 | FI Effectiveness Monitoring | 0.750 | | | 0.750 | 0.750 | 0.000 | | 0.000 | |
| 25 | TOTAL | 17.427 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 17.427 | 16.849 | 0.578 | 0.000 | 0.578 | |
| 26 | % of assumed Total Budget | 19.56% | | | 18.01% | | | | | |
| 27 | Operating Capacity: | | | | | | | | | |
| 28 | Capacity grants (WC/SWCD) incl. NRCS+LCWC | 13.547 | | 1.051 | 14.598 | 13.547 | 1.051 | 0.051 | 1.000 | |
| 29 | Statewide org partnership support | 0.450 | | | 0.450 | 0.450 | 0.000 | | 0.000 | |
| 30 | Organizational Collaborative Grants | 0.400 | | | 0.400 | 0.400 | 0.000 | | 0.000 | |
| 31 | TOTAL | 14.397 | 0.000 | 1.051 | 15.448 | 14.397 | 1.051 | 0.051 | 1.000 | |
| 32 | % of assumed Total Budget | 16.16% | | | 15.97% | | | | | |
| 33 | Other: | | | | | | | | | |
| 34 | CREP | 0.750 | | | 0.750 | 0.600 | 0.150 | | 0.150 | |
| 35 | Governor's Priorities | 1.000 | | | 1.000 | 0.875 | 0.125 | 0.066 | 0.059 | |
| 36 | Strategic Implementation Areas | 1.200 | | | 1.200 | 1.200 | 0.000 | | 0.000 | |
| 37 | Strategic Plan Implementation Grants | 0.000 | | 0.500 | 0.500 | 0.000 | 0.500 | 0.500 | 0.000 | |
| 38 | TOTAL | 2.950 | 0.000 | 0.500 | 3.450 | 2.675 | 0.775 | 0.566 | 0.209 | |
| 39 | % of assumed Total Budget | 3.31% | | | 3.57% | | | | | |
| 40 | TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan | 89.086 | 5.100 | 2.563 | 96.749 | 68.639 | 28.110 | 1.629 | 26.481 | |
| 41 | OTHER DISTRIBUTED FUNDS IN ADDITION TO SPENDING PLAN DISTRIBUTION | | | | | | | | | |
| 42 | Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - PCSRF | 10.450 | | | 10.450 | 10.450 | 0.000 | | 0.000 | |
| 43 | Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership | 0.309 | | | 0.309 | 0.309 | 0.000 | | 0.000 | |
| 44 | Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF | 0.500 | | | 0.500 | 0.500 | 0.000 | | 0.000 | |
| 45 | PSMFC-IMW | 0.438 | | 0.291 | 0.729 | 0.438 | 0.291 | 0.291 | 0.000 | |
| 46 | PSMFC-Coho Habitat Tools | 0.166 | | | 0.166 | 0.166 | 0.000 | | 0.000 | |
| 47 | TOTAL | 11.863 | 0.000 | 0.291 | 12.154 | 11.863 | 0.291 | 0.291 | 0.000 | |
| 48 | TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Distributed Funds | 100.949 | 5.100 | 2.854 | 108.903 | 80.502 | 28.401 | 1.920 | 26.481 | |



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item I – 2017-2019 Council Capacity Awards
June 27, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the mid-biennium Council Capacity grant review of the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council (Council) and staff's funding recommendation. Staff recommend funding the Council at \$50,847.50.

II. Background

At its July 2017 meeting, the board discussed and awarded 2017-19 Council Capacity grants. Two watershed councils, Lower Columbia River and Seven Basins Watershed Councils, were not recommended for funding by staff. After deliberation, the board elected to fund the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council at a reduced level (\$47,347.50) for a period of one year. A second year of funding was contingent upon the Council demonstrating that it met grant agreement special conditions and the Council Capacity merit criteria.

III. Evaluation Process

The special conditions that the council must fulfill during the grant period include tasks to complete prior to the first payment request and quarterly progress reports documenting the council's work on each of the five merit criteria. In addition, OWEB staff attended several council meetings between September 2017 and April 2018 to check-in on the council's progress.

A technical review team including OWEB staff and two external reviewers met on May 10, 2018 to interview the Council board and contractors. The team reviewed all progress reports, original and updated work plans, and the fiscal sponsorship agreement. The technical review team evaluation is found in Attachment A.

IV. Analysis

The council board demonstrated it has invested considerable time and effort over the past year into improving its operations, governance, management, and planning. The council has a plan and path forward for restoration and community engagement, clearly meetings OWEB's five Council Capacity merit criteria. Specific accomplishments include

an updated fiscal sponsorship agreement between the council and Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District, holding council elections, completing a self-evaluation and hiring a two-person contracting team to facilitate the council's continued work.

V. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board award \$47,347.50 for the Lower Columbia Watershed Council's second year of capacity funding as described in the staff recommendation portion of the evaluation contained in Attachment A. Staff also recommend the board award an additional \$3,500 to pay for the consulting firm to report on and share with other councils the lessons learned from this unique approach to council management.

In total, staff recommend the board award \$50,847.50 of Council Capacity grant funds to the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council (grant agreement #218-002) for the remainder of the 2017-2019 biennium.

Attachments

A. Evaluation

**Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2017-2019 Council Capacity Grant
Mid-biennium Evaluation**

Application No.: 218-002 **Project Type: Operating Capacity**
Project Name: Lower Columbia River Watershed Council Capacity
Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Application Description

This project seeks to fund the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include:

- habitat access - impaired access to habitat;
- hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology;
- knowledge gaps - lack of information;
- physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat; and
- water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

REVIEW PROCESS

Evaluation

Merit Criterion #1: Effective Governance

During the application review and interview process, OWEB staff and the technical review team found the council to demonstrate effective governance, as evidenced by the following actions taken since August 2017:

- The council has met monthly since August 2017.
- The council completed a self-evaluation on January 11, 2018.
- The council keeps meeting minutes and provides copies of those minutes to OWEB staff.
- The council regularly receives financial updates from the SWCD.
- The council advertises its meetings broadly to the public.

Merit Criterion #2: Effective Management

During the application review and interview process, OWEB staff and the technical review team found the council to demonstrate effective management, as evidenced by the following actions taken since August 2017:

- The council fulfilled all progress report deadlines as described in the grant agreement special conditions.
- The council worked with its fiscal sponsor, Columbia SWCD, to review and update the fiscal sponsorship agreement between the two entities.
- The council updated its board officer position descriptions.
- The council, in coordination with the SWCD, advertised for and hired a two-person consulting firm to perform coordinator duties through the end of June 2018, outlined in a set of deliverables which the consulting team will provide. The technical review team appreciated this unique approach to the management of the council and encourages the

council to capture lessons learned through this process and share with both the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils and other watershed councils.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in Planning

During the application review and interview process, OWEB staff and the technical review team found the council to demonstrate progress in planning, as evidenced by the following actions taken since August 2017:

- The council's work plan was updated and adopted by the council's governing body prior to the April 30, 2018 deadline.
- The council is beginning a strategic planning process through which they plan on broadly engaging the watershed community to help plan and prioritize the future work of the council and clarify the council's niche in the watershed moving forward.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration

During the application review and interview process, OWEB staff and the technical review team found the council to demonstrate progress in on-the-ground restoration, as evidenced by the following actions taken since August 2017:

- The council has focused work over this last year in developing effective governance and management. The council has worked to clarify its role in current restoration projects and is actively planning for future restoration projects.

Merit Criterion #5: Progress in Community Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes

During the application review and interview process, OWEB staff and the technical review team found the council to demonstrate progress in community engagement, as evidenced by the following actions taken since August 2017:

- The council has worked to clarify its role in community engagement activities and submitted a stakeholder engagement application for the May 2018 Open Solicitation grant cycle.
- The council will be working with the consultants to write an outreach plan, which will guide the council's future outreach efforts.

Technical Review Team Recommendation

Fund increased with conditions. The TRT recommends funding the council at 50% of the full funding amount (\$59,212.5). The increased funding, \$11,865.00, must be used to pay for the consulting firm to report on and share the lessons learned from this unique approach to the management of the council.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund the second year of the council capacity grant at \$47,347.50 with conditions. Staff also recommend the board provide an additional \$3,500, to pay for the consulting firm to report on and share the lessons learned from this unique approach to the management of the council.

Staff Recommended Award

\$50,847.50



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Andrew Dutterer, Partnerships Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item J – Implementation FIP – Upper Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership Request
June 27, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

The Upper Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership requests to carry forward \$339,887 that was awarded in the 2015-2017 biennium.

II. Background

The Upper Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership obligated the entirety of its 2015-2017 biennium funds prior to the conclusion of that biennium. Since then, the Hall Ranch Restoration project along Catherine Creek, which was funded in the 2015-2017 biennium, has undergone a significant change in project site conditions. The Oregon Department of Transportation has agreed to the relocation of Highway 203 in the project reach. This will allow Catherine Creek to access the entire floodplain and offers a substantial increase in potential ecological gain in this reach of Catherine Creek, which provides critically important habitat for ESA-listed spring Chinook and summer steelhead.

III. Request

As a result of this change, the partnership would like to enter into a new grant agreement for the Hall Ranch Restoration project that will account for the extensive shift in restoration approach and implementation timeline. This requires the submission of a new proposal and technical review. Simply amending the existing grant agreement is not sufficient for representing the new restoration approach and ensuring technical soundness. Thus, the 2015-2017 biennium project funds are requested for carry-forward in order to submit a new proposal, conduct technical review, and enter into a new grant agreement for the project.

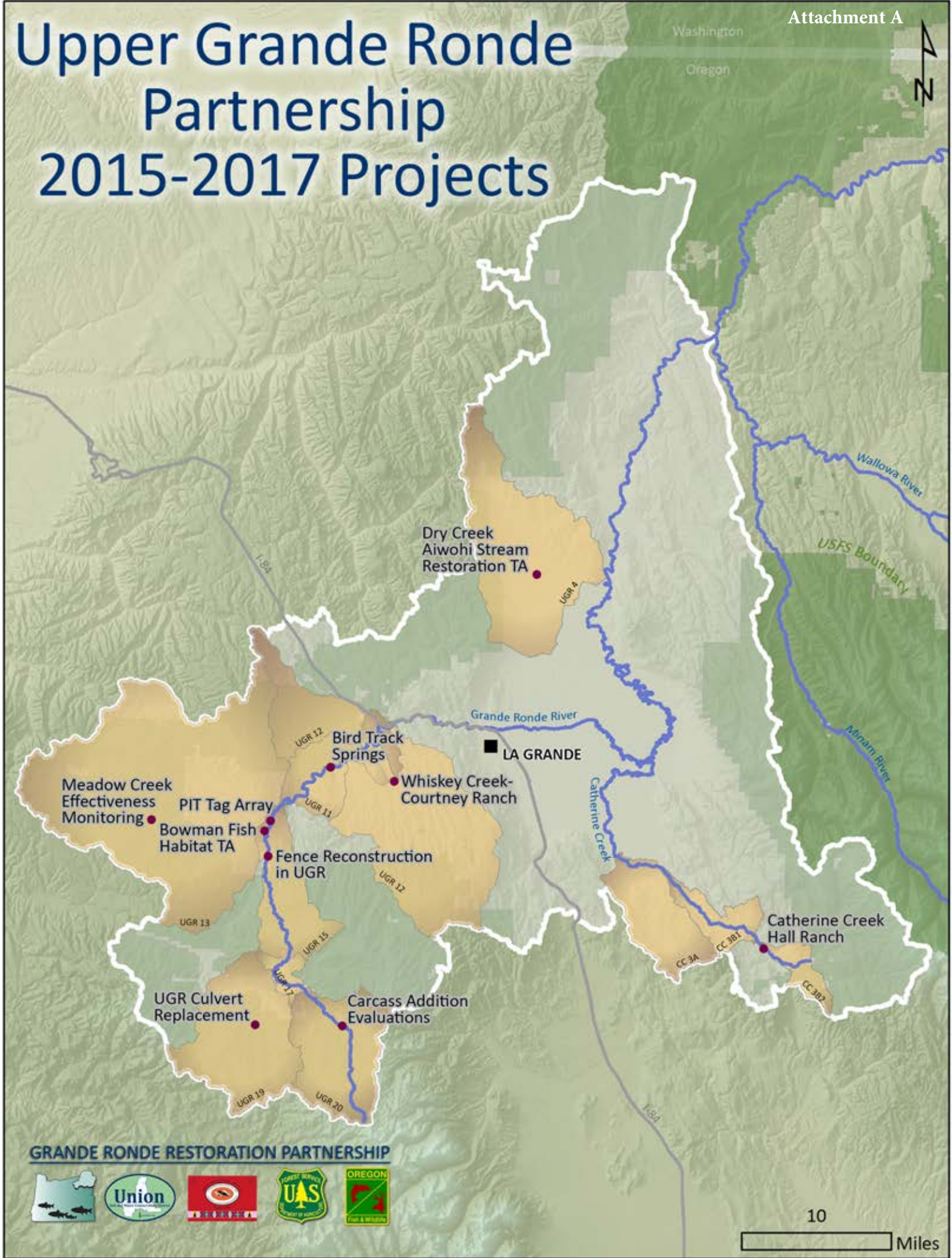
IV. Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend the board carry forward \$339,887 of 216-8205-12639, in order for the partnership to submit a new proposal and develop a new grant agreement for the Hall Ranch Restoration project.

Attachments

- A. Map of restoration projects for the 2015-2017 biennium Upper Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership.

Upper Grande Ronde Partnership 2015-2017 Projects



GRANDE RONDE RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP





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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Miriam Hulst, Acquisitions Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item K-1– 2017 Land Acquisition Portfolio Monitoring
June 27, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides a summary of 2017 land acquisition portfolio monitoring and considerations for future monitoring.

II. Background

OWEB has made approximately \$49 million in land acquisition grants since the late 1990s. The grants have involved the use of conservation easements to permanently protect approximately 79,000 acres of land for the benefit of board-designated priority ecosystems, plant communities, and species. OWEB periodically monitors the properties encumbered by conservation easements to ensure that the land is being managed in a manner consistent with the purposes of OWEB's funding.

III. 2017 Land Acquisition Portfolio Monitoring

A. Process

OWEB contractors completed monitoring in 2017 for 63 properties in which OWEB previously invested land acquisition funds. Using a standardized monitoring form, the contractors monitored each property for conservation easement compliance and assessed whether conservation values are being protected and ecological objectives are being met. The contractors' monitoring process included: reviewing project documents such as baseline reports and management plans, interviewing grantees to understand their successes and challenges in meeting project goals, conducting monitoring site visits, and preparing monitoring data and reports. A summary report of the monitoring results is provided as Attachment A to this staff report.

B. Results

In general, properties in which OWEB has invested land acquisition funds are performing well and have improved relative to the findings of OWEB's previous portfolio monitoring, which was conducted in 2012. OWEB contractors also used the monitoring as an opportunity to assist OWEB with relationship-building and identify ways OWEB

and grantees can work collaboratively to address project challenges for greater conservation outcomes.

C. Follow-up

While properties are generally performing well, the 2017 monitoring also identified specific needs for follow-up. Some grantees need funding and expertise, particularly to map and treat invasive species. Others need assistance to update management plans to better meet ecological goals for the properties. Grantees were made aware of these needs and OWEB project managers are following up on matters raised for land acquisition projects in their areas.

IV. Considerations for Future Land Acquisition Monitoring

Portfolio monitoring is an important part of ensuring the success of OWEB's land acquisition program. Each property should be monitored at a minimum of every five years.

The size of OWEB's growing portfolio presents challenges for conducting all of the monitoring in a single field season. In the future, it may be necessary to split the monitoring work between years, or biennia.

V. Attachments

- A. Summary Report – 2017 Land Acquisition Monitoring

**Summary Report
2017 Land Acquisition Monitoring**

January 5, 2018

Prepared for:
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer St NE Suite 360
Salem, OR 97301-1290

Prepared by:
Karen Allen, *Aequinox*
1624 NW Trenton Ave.
Bend, OR 97703
(541) 617-1380

Background

In 2017, OWEB contracted with Karen Allen dba Aequinox under Contract 010-17-15369 for Land Acquisition Monitoring of Willamette Valley and Southern, Central, and Eastern Oregon properties and Coordination Services, and with John Sanchez dba Cutthroat Country Consulting under Contract 017-17-15370 for Land Acquisition Monitoring of Coast properties. For each property, contractors monitored for conservation easement compliance and assessed whether conservation values are being protected and ecological objectives are being met.

Monitors completed monitoring for 63 properties in which OWEB has invested. Of these, 1 is a recent acquisition in the early stages of implementation of management actions. A contractor completed 'compliance only' monitoring on this property. The remaining 62 properties were fully monitored to determine if each property's conservation values are being protected and assess compliance with the conservation easement and achievement of ecological goals. A 2017 Summary spreadsheet captures the contents of the monitoring reports and is the source of summary statistics described below.

Methods

Aequinox worked with OWEB in Spring 2017 to make minor updates to the land acquisition monitoring form and summary spreadsheet used in 2012 for monitors to use in 2017. To train all monitors, OWEB gave a webinar on March 15, 2017 to convey Land Acquisition Program principles and priorities, typical project materials, the variation found between projects, and objectives and process for 2017 monitoring. In addition, all monitors attended a Field Calibration Site Visit at the Pond Property in Central Oregon with OWEB to work through the monitoring form together, discuss appropriate level of detail to answer monitoring form questions, and ensure consistency among monitors. Monitors completed biweekly updates to document the time required to monitor each property.

Monitoring itself included the following tasks:

1. Check-in with OWEB regarding property information as needed
2. Review project documents, prioritizing review in this order:
 - a. Conservation Easement
 - b. Past 2012 OWEB monitoring report
 - c. Baseline Report
 - d. Management Plan
 - e. Intermittent grantee progress reports and correspondence
 - f. Grant Agreement
 - g. Other documents necessary to be able to effectively monitor, e.g. restoration plan, monitoring report
3. Phone interview with grantees
4. Plan efficient travel by combining monitoring of nearby properties (OWEB provided monitors with ArcGIS travel routes from cities in which monitors live for planning purposes)
5. Conduct monitoring site visit

6. Complete land acquisition monitoring form

Findings, Successes, and Challenges

Findings

The 2017 monitors used the same monitoring criteria and scoring process to rate each property as that developed in 2012. The table below summarizes important 2017 findings and those in relations to 2012 findings. Monitoring criteria refers to questions asked on the monitoring form (see form for more detailed descriptions of each). 2017 Compliance/Condition Total Scores are based on a scale of 0 to 10 with 10 being the highest possible summary score, and are derived from the following monitoring form elements:

- ≠ Habitat for Conservation-priorities Maintained & Enhanced
- ≠ Project Compliance
- ≠ Management Plan Development and Implementation
- ≠ Property Achieving Ecological Outcomes
- ≠ Priority Conservation Plant Communities Observed
- ≠ Provisions in Place for Long-term Maintenance (dedicated funding/endowment)

| Monitoring Criteria or Compliance/Condition Score | Percent Meeting Criteria | Notes |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| Compliance/Condition Total Scores of 9 or better | 76% | This is an increase from 43% reported in 2012. This positive trajectory suggests future opportunities for improvement in condition scores and that a goal for all properties to have a score of 9 or better may be within reach. |
| Compliance/Condition Total Scores of 6 or better | 95% | This is an improvement from 87% reported in 2012. Only 3 properties scored a 5 or less. |
| Percent of Properties that performed as well or better than in 2012 | 82% | A total of 38 properties were fully monitored in both 2012 & 2017. Of these, 7 (18%) had the same compliance/condition total score, 24 (63%) had a better score, and 31 (82%) had the same or better score in 2017 than in 2012. |
| Project Compliance | 95% | 95% of the properties are in full compliance with the conservation easement (or covenant), grant agreement, and interagency agreement (if applicable). This is a significant increase from the 64% of properties in compliance found in 2012. |
| Achieving Ecological Goals stated in the project documents | 65% | For 65% of the properties monitored, the current health of priority habitats is good and the property is achieving the ecological and conservation goals of the acquisition. This is an increase from 48% found in 2012. |

| Monitoring Criteria or Compliance/Condition Score | Percent Meeting Criteria | Notes |
|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Management Plans Approved | 89% | 89% of properties have approved management plans, up from 57% in 2012. In 2% of projects, a plan was not required and 9% of properties have no required management plan. |
| Management Plan Development and Implementation | 77% | In 77% of properties, a management plan has been approved by OWEB, management of the property is consistent with the plan, and the management activities are being implemented in a timely manner. |
| Capacity (grantees' assessment of 'funding or other barriers to management & restoration' provided during interview) | 83% | Based on the information monitors gleaned from interviews, 83% of projects are run by grantees who appear to have the organizational capacity needed to successfully implement their projects (down from 89% in 2012). |
| Provisions for long-term maintenance | 86% | Related to capacity, 86% of properties have dedicated funding or an endowment (compared with 64% in 2012). |

Successes

1. In general, fee title and conservation easement properties acquired with OWEB funds are performing well and have improved overall relative to 2012 findings.
2. Monitoring served to re-engage grantees in project documents and obligations. While most grantees were clearly quite familiar with these, others appeared to benefit from the prompt and/or walking the site with the contractor to better understand them.
3. OWEB contractors embraced the indirect opportunity to assist OWEB with relationship building. Contractors tried to reinforce the grantee/OWEB relationship as partners, emphasizing that both grantees and OWEB have the same interests, to protect and restore conservation values and work toward properties attaining ecological outcomes. When grantees expressed concerns about deficiencies, contractors suggested they discuss them with OWEB to collaboratively try to locate resources to address the deficiencies. Now is an ideal time for OWEB to reflect on a) how best to leverage contractors' recent efforts, b) messaging regarding partnerships, and c) how best to assist grantees in finding resources to address deficiencies while meeting obligations and shared goals.
4. 2017 monitoring brought needs to light. Contractors heard about grantees biggest challenges and greatest needs to more effectively manage their lands. In some cases grantees need funding (e.g. to map and treat invasives), in others they need technical assistance (e.g. to update a management plan), and in others minor compliance issues came to light that prompted grantees to quickly resolve them before they became bigger issues (e.g. fencing to prevent livestock from entering an

area off-limits to them.). Final monitoring reports highlight these needs. Now is an opportune time for OWEB to follow up on these expressed needs, to help identify resources needed to protect conservation values and accelerate movement toward meeting ecological goals.

5. Innovative approaches by grantees came to light and are documented in final reports. For example, innovative forest management practices are being informed by some grantees' research findings. Other grantees pro-actively learn landowner intentions for management actions in the upcoming year as a way to build relationships and increase the likelihood of easement compliance.
6. Overall, the project reaffirmed the importance of conducting OWEB Land Acquisition Monitoring every five years, for the reasons noted above.

Challenges

The following list describes commonly observed project deficiencies and recommendations for offering future guidance and assistance to OWEB's partners:

1. Capacity: Based on the information monitors gleaned from interviews, 83% of projects are run by grantees who appear to have the organizational capacity needed to successfully implement their projects. For the 17% of projects that lack capacity, Aequinox recommends OWEB work closely with grantees to determine the best approach to improve capacity to implement management plans, conduct long-term maintenance, and ensure project success over time.
2. Invasives and lack of capacity to effectively manage invasives appears to be the primary cause of degradation in conservation values. Many grantees need assistance finding resources for baseline weed mapping, weed management plan development and implementation. OWEB can assist grantees in locating resources for baseline weed mapping, weed management plans, and treatment actions. They can offer example weed mapping and weed management plans to grantees to help them visualize how they might map weeds on their properties, research and prioritize treatment options, and track progress over time. Some grantees do this well and are actively managing weeds while others may benefit from support.
3. Invasive vegetation occurs on most sites. However, data shows some positive trends concerning invasives. In terms of severity, invasives are dominant and major control efforts are needed on approximately 20% of properties for each habitat type (riparian, wetland, upland). Interview results show that grantees are actively managing weeds on 86% of properties. Data indicates that in all habitat types, more invasives are moving onto acquisitions than are moving off. In 8% of properties with uplands and 31% of those with riparian habitats, invasives are likely moving off the properties onto adjacent lands. Since riparian areas are, by definition, adjacent to rivers/streams, movement on and off site via water is expected.
4. Management not in accordance with Management Plans: In some cases, grantees have outdated management plans that were approved by OWEB, but contain management actions that the grantee has no intention of implementing. These cases are well-documented in final reports with the recommendation to update the Management Plan to accurately reflect current management intentions or to manage according to plan. In other cases in which a management plan did not

include a timeline, the property was given a green mark for management activities being implemented in a timely manner, but a recommendation was added to include a timeline in the next plan update.

Monitoring Challenges

1. Estimating Invasives: On each property, contractors noted invasive species present and approximate percent cover on a sub-sample of any given habitat to the best of their ability. The larger the property, the smaller the sub-sample in relation to the whole property size and the more generalized the estimation (e.g. assessment of 5 acres across several parts of a 10 acre property will be more accurate than an assessment of 5 acres across a property 1,000 acre in size).
2. Determining whether the invasive plant species are spreading onto the property from adjacent lands, are spreading from the property onto adjacent lands, and the trend in population size all require good baselines against which to evaluate current populations. Information on baseline invasive conditions was commonly missing from baseline reports and management plans. Best professional judgement was used to answer these questions. Monitors considered seed dispersal methods, proximity to flowing water, proximity to property boundaries, and used 2012 monitoring as a rough baseline to help answer these questions. Sometimes monitors noted “difficult to determine,” “unclear,” or “likely on or off based on seed dispersal method.” A possible way forward for OWEB to get a better handle on the answers to these questions in the future would be to require baseline weed mapping for every project.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item K-2 – OWEB Land Acquisition Rulemaking
June 27, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report seeks board authorization to initiate rulemaking for OWEB Land Acquisition grants (Division 45).

II. Background

Land Acquisition grants are an integral OWEB grant offering, protecting nearly 100 properties during the past 20 years. Administrative rules for the program were last updated in 2013, and ORS 183.405 requires administrative rules adopted after January 1, 2006 to be reviewed no later than five years after adoption. Staff propose to work with a rules advisory committee (RAC) to determine whether the administrative rules should be updated to reflect the current state of practice.

III. Proposed Rulemaking Process

Staff will convene a RAC for the land acquisition rulemaking process. The RAC will be composed of grantees, stakeholders, and staff to review the proposed rules. Staff propose to develop the Land Acquisition program rules according to the draft schedule below.

Table 1

| Rulemaking Action | Land Acquisition Dates/Deadlines |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Board Authorization for Rulemaking | June 2018 |
| RAC Meetings to Vet Draft Rules and Provide Feedback | July-December 2018 |
| Draft Rules Revisions Based on RAC Feedback | January 1, 2019 |
| Notice Filed with Secretary of State | January 15, 2019 |
| Public Comment Materials posted online | February 1, 2019 |
| Notice to Agency Mailing List and Legislators | February 1, 2019 |

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Secretary of State’s Bulletin | February 1, 2019 (published) |
| Public Comment Period | February 1-31, 2019 |
| Public Hearing(s) | February, 2019 |
| Revisions to Draft Rules Based on Public Comment | Early March, 2019 |
| Board Adoption of Rules | April, 2019 |

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend that the board authorize rulemaking for OWEB Land Acquisition grants.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director
Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item M – 2019-2021 Agency Request Budget
June 27, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report requests the board's approval of budget proposals that will be included in OWEB's Agency Request Budget (ARB) for the 2019-2021 biennium.

II. Budget Preparations for the 2019 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 policy narratives and justification. The requested additions to an agency's base budget are called "Policy Packages."

OWEB must submit its ARB narrative to the Governor and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) by August 31, 2018. 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 legislative session, agencies may advocate for their individual Policy Packages only to the extent that they are included in the GRB.

III. Budget Outlook

As staff described to the board at the April 2018 meeting, recent economic forecasts project that revenues will continue to grow at a modest, but slower pace than in recent years. The latest revenue forecast is more positive than previous forecasts, indicating that revenues will be more in line with increasing state costs. This will result in a much lower deficit than indicated in previous forecasts.

Each biennium, agencies are required to submit a report that lists 10 percent reduction options from current service level by priority for all fund sources. Full reductions have

not been taken in the past few budget cycles. Future reductions will depend on the revenue outlook and the level of remaining ending balances from the 2017-19 biennium.

IV. Budget Proposals for the 2019-2021 Biennium

Attachment A provides the current agency organizational chart. As noted at the April 2018 meeting, OWEB's budget proposals for next biennium are based on an analysis of current staffing relative to agency functions anticipated to be needed during the 2019-2021 biennium, including if and how needed functions could be completed with existing staffing or contract resources. The budget proposals also reflect needs associated with broader initiatives coordinated with the Governor's Office and other agencies. As a result, OWEB's Executive Team proposes that, in addition to the agency's base budget, the ARB include funding for positions and contracted services identified in Attachment B to the staff report.

V. Next Steps for Budget Development

Staff will use the budget proposals approved by the board at the June 2018 meeting as a foundation for developing policy packages for inclusion in the ARB. At future meetings, staff will keep the board apprised about the status of the 2019-21 biennium budget process.

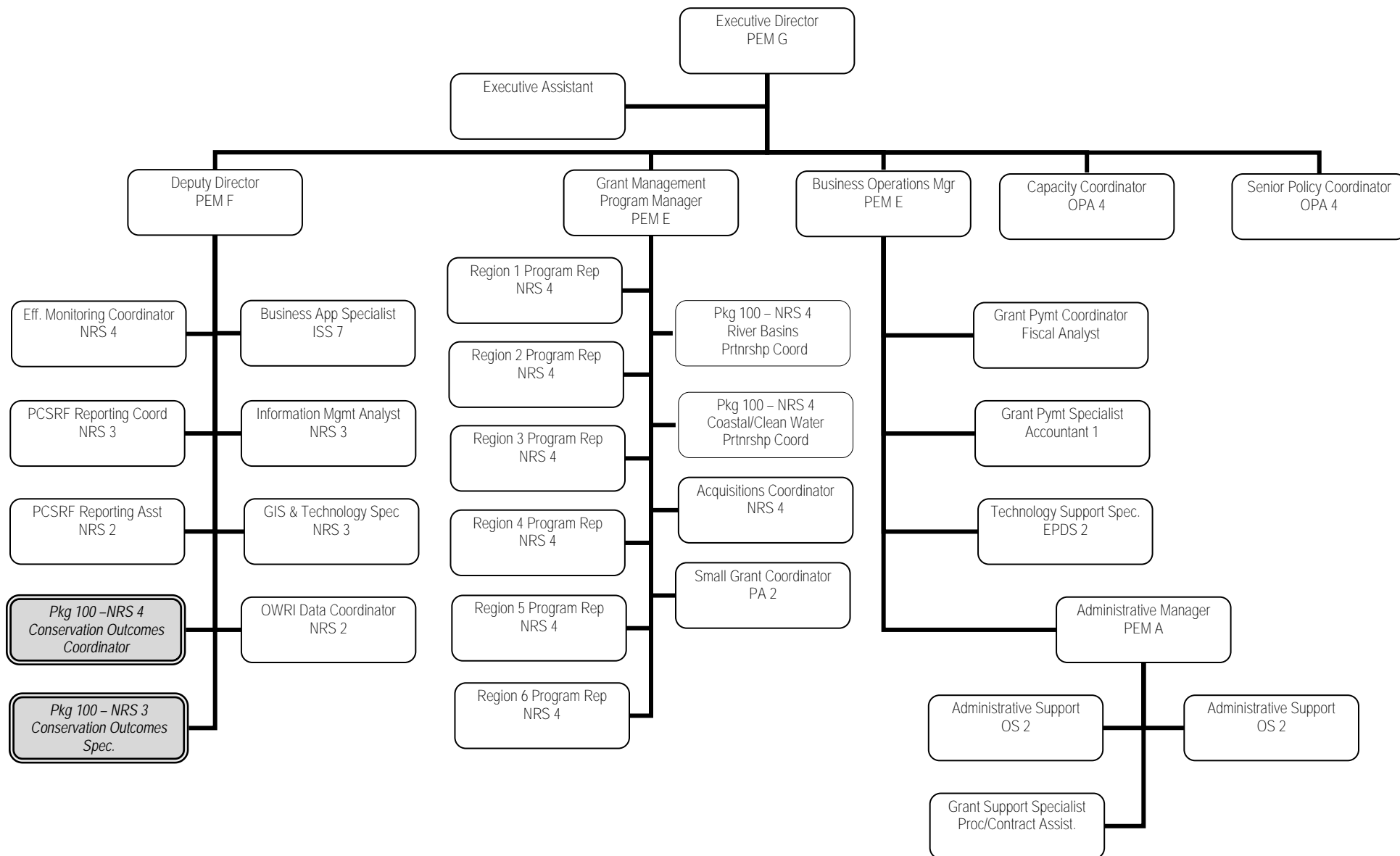
VI. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve the budget proposals included in Attachment B of this staff report, for inclusion in OWEB's 2019-2021 Agency Request Budget.

Attachments

- A. OWEB Organizational Chart, 2017-2019
- B. Draft Proposed Policy Option Packages for OWEB's 2019-21 Agency Request Budget

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Organizational Chart 2017-2019 Legislatively Adopted Budget



Permanent

Limited Duration FTE

33.0 - FTE
33.0 - Positions

**OWEB 2019-2021 Agency Request Budget
Policy Option Package Proposals**

| 1. Program Continuity | Estimated Amount | FTE | Proposed Fund Source | OWEB Strategic Plan Priority¹ |
|--|-------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|---|
| <p><u>Conservation Outcomes Coordinator (NRS4)</u> – Continues a position and requests change from limited duration to permanent. The position 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 Coordinated Streamside Management program, the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership and other similar initiatives. The position works with other agencies and local stakeholders to develop conservation outcome metrics, coordinate monitoring and data management frameworks, and report results at the landscape level and statewide scales. This position helps to measure and report on salmon habitat and recovery activities across the state.</p> | \$300,000 | 1.00 | Federal Funds | 6 and 1 |
| <p><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. The position assists with implementation of coordinated monitoring, adaptive management, and shared learning aspects of OWEB’s updated strategic plan.</p> | \$240,000 | 1.00 | Lottery Funds | 6 and 1 |

¹ Based on the current draft of OWEB’s strategic plan, these references denote connections between policy option packages and strategic plan priorities.

| 2. Program Enhancement | Estimated Amount | FTE | Proposed Fund Source | OWEB Strategic Plan Priority |
|---|------------------|-----|----------------------|------------------------------|
| <p><u>Contracted Services</u> – OWEB Measure 76 grant funds are not eligible to use for contracting. There are certain work products and functions required by OWEB’s programs that are most efficiently and effectively accomplished through personal services contracts. The contracting funds included in OWEB’s base budget are not sufficient to cover the full range of the agency’s contracting needs. This request ensures OWEB has adequate funds available for contracting purposes next biennium. These funds will be used in lieu of hiring additional staff to provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Long-term protection implementation (e.g., ecological, title and appraisal reviews) for the increasing number of land acquisition grant applications being submitted, and initiation of the first biennial cycle of 6-year monitoring for all of OWEB’s land acquisitions investments; 2. Assistance with implementation of OWEB’s 2018 strategic plan, including, but not limited to activities associated with diversity, equity and inclusion; 3. Effectiveness monitoring of OWEB’s restoration investments with the federal government via the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program; 4. Improvements to OWEB’s statutorily required reporting for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds Biennial Report; and 5. Staff training to ensure effective management of grants that support watershed restoration and conservation. | \$375,000 | N/A | Lottery Funds | 1, 3 and 6 |
| <p><u>Online Systems Project Management</u> – Beginning in the 2015-2017 biennium, OWEB initiated a series of improvements to its business processes to increase efficiency and provide higher quality customer service. One component was creation of an online grant application system to complement OWEB’s existing fiscal management data system. OWEB continues to transition more of its processes online, and requests a limited duration position (Project Manager 2) to work with OWEB customers and staff to scope online system functionality, manage system improvements and coordinate testing and refinement of the system through time.</p> | \$300,000 | 1.0 | Lottery Funds | N/A |

| 2. Program Enhancement (continued) | Amount | FTE | Proposed Fund Source | OWEB Strategic Plan Priority |
|--|-----------|-----|----------------------|------------------------------|
| <p><u>Partnerships Coordinator (NRS4)</u> – A project management position is needed to address workload created by the board’s increase in grants for Focused Investment Partnerships, which are long-term investments in high performing partnerships implementing restoration actions to achieve ecological outcomes at the landscape scale. Based on preliminary discussions, the board is expected to increase FIP investment by \$7 million in the 19-21 biennium, to a total of \$22 million, or 25% of OWEB’s grant portfolio. The additional position is needed to manage this increased investment.</p> | \$285,000 | 1.0 | Lottery Funds | 3 and 7 |

| 3. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) | Estimated Amount | FTE | Proposed Fund Source | OWEB Strategic Plan Priority |
|---|------------------|-----|--|------------------------------|
| <p><u>OAHP Grants</u> – This request is for funding to support grants associated with the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. This program offers voluntary tools that help farmers and ranchers maintain land as active farms and ranches while providing incentives and support for conservation on those lands. The request includes \$9.25 million in grants for succession planning, conservation management plans, and working land conservation covenants and easements.</p> | \$9.25 million | N/A | General Funds | 5 |
| <p><u>OAHP Staffing</u> – This request is for funding to support staffing needs associated with the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. This program offers voluntary tools that help farmers and ranchers maintain land as active farms and ranches while providing incentives and support for conservation on those lands. The request includes \$750,000 for staffing costs to implement the program. Positions needed to implement this program include: OPA4 to provide overall program coordination; NRS4 or similar position to coordinate the working land covenants and easements; and OS2 (0.5 FTE) to provide program support.</p> | \$750,000 | 2.5 | Primarily General Funds; very modest amount of Lottery Funds for a portion of OPA4 | 5 |

| 4. Carry Forward | Estimated Amount | FTE | Proposed Fund Source | 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 2019-2021 biennium. | TBD | N/A | Federal Funds, Other Funds | N/A |

| 5. Additional Grant Funds – Forest Collaboratives | Estimated Amount | FTE | Proposed Fund Source | OWEB Strategic Plan |
|--|-------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| This policy package would allow OWEB to receive and expend funds from Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) as grants for forest collaboratives under the state’s Federal Forest Health Program, should this service be requested and if additional funds are appropriated by the Legislature for these purposes in 2019-2021. | \$750,000 | N/A | Other Funds via ODF | 4 |

| 6. Additional Grant Funds – Federal Funds and Other Funds Limitation | Estimated Amount | FTE | Proposed Fund Source | OWEB Strategic Plan |
|--|-------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| This policy package would allow OWEB to receive and expend as grants funding from other sources, should this service be requested and if federal and/or other funds are available for this purpose during the 2019-21 biennium. An example of additional grant funds is funding from Natural Resources Conservation Service for local technical and administrative assistance. (If needed based on when the funding is available, a portion of this request may be made to the Oregon Legislature prior to the 2019 session, during interim Legislative Days.) | \$2 million | N/A | Federal Funds, Other Funds | 3 and 4 |

| 7. Upper Klamath Salmon and Steelhead Reintroduction and Habitat Restoration | Estimated Amount | FTE | Proposed Fund Source | OWEB Strategic Plan |
|---|-------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Four significant dams on the Klamath River are scheduled to be removed in early 2021. This historic event creates an opportunity to truly ‘move the needle’ on the recovery of salmon in Oregon. Funding will expand and better integrate existing programs housed in several natural resources agencies. A focus on restoration on common priorities previously identified by tribes, agricultural interests, conservationists, and state and federal agencies. OWEB’s request for funding will support on-the-ground restoration, fish screening and passage, land and water acquisition, and technical assistance projects via grants during the 2019-21 biennium. | \$13.4 million | N/A | Lottery or Federal Funds | 3, 4 and 7 |

| 8. Clean Water State Revolving Fund Septic Systems Loans – Other Funds Limitation | Estimated Amount | FTE | Proposed Fund Source | OWEB Strategic Plan |
|---|-------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <p>This policy package would allow OWEB to pass -through Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan funds from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to a third-party entity that is addressing failing septic systems in communities around Oregon. Only governmental subdivisions are eligible to apply for SRF loans. OWEB will apply to DEQ for loan funds, and then execute an agreement with a third party to provide low-interest loans to homeowners and others to replace failing septic systems that degrade water quality. (If needed based on when the funding is available, a portion of this request may be made to the Oregon Legislature prior to the 2019 session, during interim Legislative Days.)</p> | <p>\$2 million</p> | <p>N/A</p> | <p>Other Funds</p> | <p>3, 4 and 7</p> |

OWEB Strategic Plan Priorities

1. Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds
2. Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians
3. Community capacity and strategic partnerships support resilience in watersheds
4. Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio
5. The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health
6. Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness
7. Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon’s watersheds



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item N – Partnership Learning Project
June 27, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report introduces the Partnership Learning Project – Part 2. The full report is available as Attachment A to the staff report.

II. Background

OWEB's Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) program was initiated in the 2015-2017 biennium to invest in a partnership approach that strategically prioritizes activities at a large scale to accelerate progress toward restoration of priority species and habitats. In January 2016, the board awarded the initial grants for the FIP program, awarding \$13.7 million for both Implementation and Development FIPs. Eight partnerships were awarded two-year Development FIP grants to build resilient, sustainable partnerships capable of implementing effective restoration programs. Six partnerships were awarded Implementation FIP grants to support large-scale on-the-ground restoration for up to six years.

The board awarded funds to the Bonneville Environmental Foundation for FIP effectiveness monitoring, including the Partnership Learning Project, at the April 2016 Board meeting.

III. Partnership Learning Project

The purpose of the Partnership Learning Project is to better understand what partnerships need to be resilient and maintain a high level of performance, and how OWEB can improve the FIP program to support these partnerships to achieve desired ecological outcomes.

Jennifer Arnold of Reciprocity Consulting presented part one of the Partnership Learning Project at the July 2017 board meeting. The initial report focused on lessons learned from the eight Development FIPs. Results from the initial report informed the FIP rulemaking process as well as the evaluation the Development FIP applications funded at the October 2017 board meeting. The report also resulted in the board's approval of

additional funds for partnerships to develop financial plans related to their FIP programs.

The attached report represents findings from both the initial report and the evaluation of the six Implementation FIPs. The information in the report is rolled up so as to prevent linking comments or findings directly to any one grantee. Arnold collected the information contained in the report by attending meetings of all FIPs, conducting in-depth interviews with partners, and evaluating partner survey responses.

IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only. OWEB staff and project partners will be at the June board meeting to present the report and answer questions about the Partnership Learning Project.

Attachments

- A. Partnership Learning Project Report

PART TWO

Partnership Learning Project



ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH



A REPORT FOR **Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board**
In collaboration with Bonneville Environmental Foundation



PREPARED BY

Jennifer Arnold, Ph.D.

RECIPROCITY CONSULTING LLC

June 2018



BEAR CREEK, BEFORE AND AFTER (ECO LOGICAL RESEARCH)

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board in coordination with Bonneville Environmental Foundation. The findings presented here were made possible through the generous and thoughtful reflections of participating partners.

Thank you to all who shared your experiences and insights. It is hoped that this report will support your continued success.



ABOUT RECIPROCITY CONSULTING

Reciprocity Consulting, LLC is a women-owned small business based in Tacoma, Washington that provides customized support to build partnerships and engage diverse stakeholders.

Owner Jennifer S. Arnold, Ph.D. has over 15 years of experience in research, facilitation, and training focused on collaborative approaches to conservation and community development. She specializes in launching new collaborative efforts, growing existing partnerships, managing conflicts productively, addressing equity and effectively engaging diverse stakeholders to have a lasting positive impact in our communities and our environment.

Partnership Learning Project

A TWO-PART REPORT

1 **PART ONE** emphasizes what it takes to initiate or formalize a partnership and work through the growing pains of planning and governance (*focus on Development FIP grantees*).

2 **PART TWO** emphasizes the dynamic nature of partnerships and the resources, support and guidance from funders that can build resiliency and boost impact (*focus on Implementation FIP grantees integrated with Part One findings*).

Common Terms

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

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. 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.

Focused Investment Partnership (FIP)

A Focused Investment Partnership is an OWEB investment that:

- addresses a Board-identified priority of significance to the state;
- achieves clear and measurable ecological outcomes;
- uses integrated, results-oriented approaches as identified through a strategic action plan; and
- is implemented by a high-performing partnership.

Development FIP Grant

(formerly Capacity Building FIP grant)

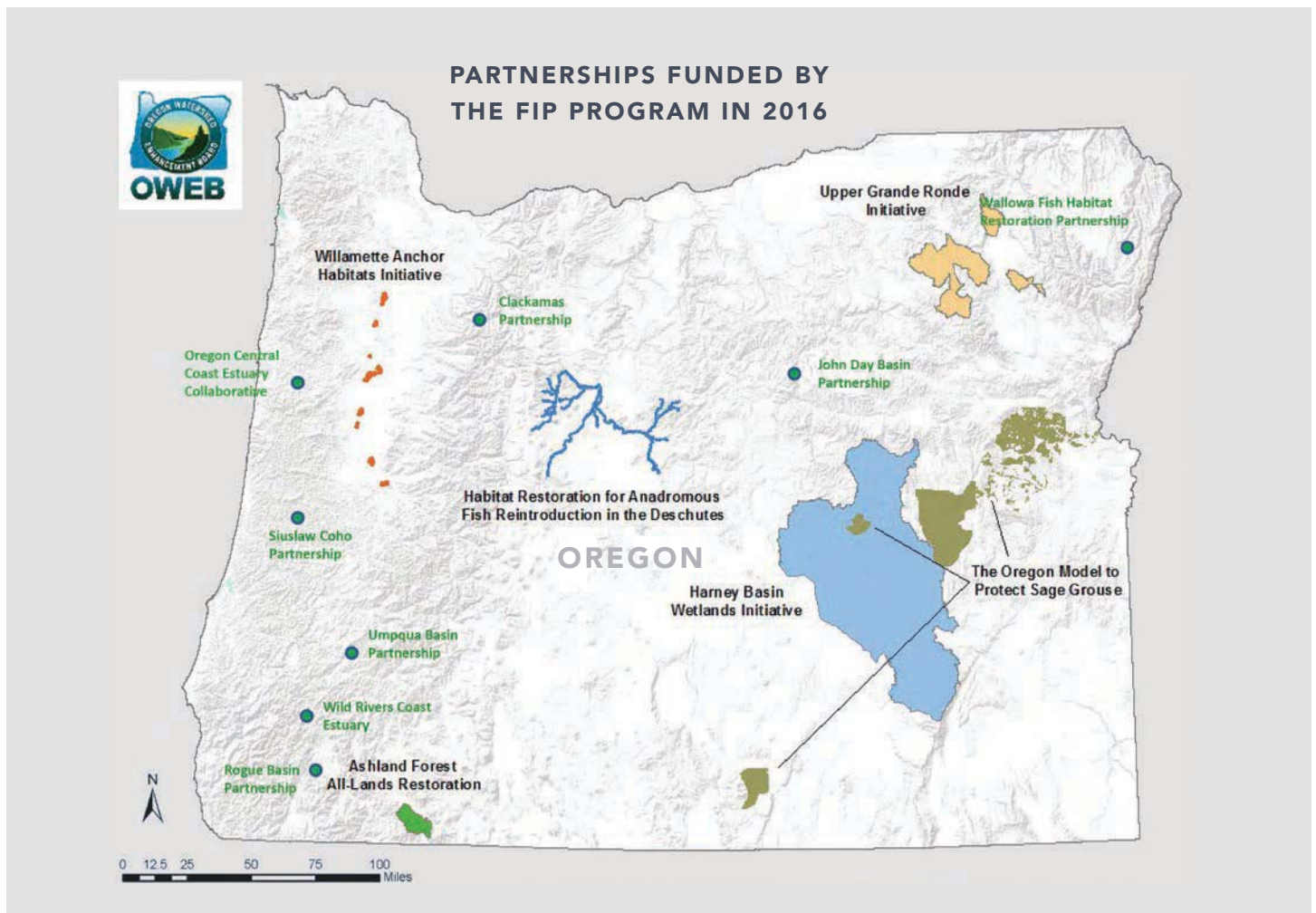
Two-year grants, which are part of OWEB's FIP Program, that are awarded to partnerships to develop a strategic action plan, governance documents and otherwise build capacity to perform at a higher level.

Implementation FIP Grant

Six-year grants, which are part of OWEB's FIP Program, that are awarded to high-performing partnerships to implement on-the-ground restoration projects.

Board-identified Priorities for FIP Investments by Habitat

- Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
- Closed Lakes Basin Wetland
- Coastal Estuaries
- Coho Habitat and Populations along the Coast
- Dry-Type Forest Habitat
- Oak Woodland and Prairie
- Sagebrush / Sage-Steppe



Executive Summary

OWEB’s Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Program was inspired by the idea of “collective impact” that partnerships can uniquely leverage the collective capacity of multiple organizations and accelerate the pace and scale of restoration when partners are strategically aligned around shared priorities and committed to mutually reinforcing actions. In the 2015-2016 biennium, two types of multi-year FIP grants were awarded – a Development FIP grant to develop partnership capacity and an Implementation FIP grant to implement restoration projects.

In January 2016, the OWEB Board awarded \$13.7 million to fourteen partnerships:



OWEB recognized this was very different from their other grant programs and initiated this study to better understand:

- 1 What do partnerships need to be resilient and maintain a high level of performance?
- 2 How can OWEB improve and innovate the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) program to support high-performing, resilient partnerships that can make progress toward desired ecological outcomes?

| GRANT | PURPOSE | AMT/TIME | FUNDED PARTNERSHIPS |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p>Development FIP grants <i>(formerly Capacity Building FIP grants)</i></p> | <p>Develop partnership capacity, e.g., a strategic action plan, governance documents, a funding plan, etc.</p> | <p>Up to \$150,000 each over 2 years</p> | <p>8 Partnerships: Clackamas Basin Partnership John Day Basin Partnership Oregon Central Coast Estuaries Collaborative Rogue Basin Partnership Siuslaw Coho Partnership Umpqua Basin Partnership Wallowa Habitat Restoration Partnership Wild Rivers Estuary Partnership</p> |
| <p>Implementation FIP grants</p> | <p>Implement large-scale, on-the-ground restoration projects, including some technical assistance and focused outreach</p> | <p>About \$6 million each over 6 years</p> | <p>6 Partnerships: Ashland Forest All Lands Restoration Initiative Deschutes Partnership Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership Harney Basin Wetland Initiative Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse Willamette Anchor Habitat Working Group</p> |

Partnerships are networks of people and organizations working together to advance shared interests.

They operate on the fundamental belief that partners can achieve more collectively than individually. Partnerships require upfront investment in relationship building, typically one to three years, and once a partnership is established, there are inherent costs and challenges related to communication, decision-making, and coordinated action (Brouwer and others 2015).

ROGUE BASIN PARTNERSHIP



Methods

To guarantee confidentiality and encourage candid feedback, OWEB contracted with an independent social scientist Jennifer Arnold, Ph.D. of Reciprocity Consulting LLC. From Fall 2016 to Spring 2018, Jennifer reached out to all 14 funded partnerships:

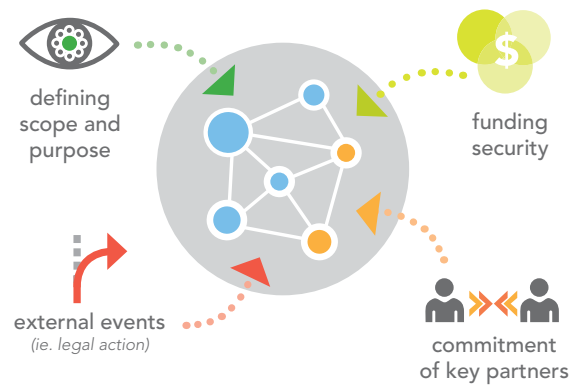
Attended a meeting of each of the 14 partnerships,

Participated in 4 conference calls with OWEB and the Development FIP grantees,

Interviewed 47 partners (ave. 3-4 per partnership) and

Received survey feedback from 137 partners (ave. 10 per partnership).

The data were analyzed using a qualitative approach called **grounded theory**, where an explanation of the system is inductively developed from participant experiences and reflections (Charmaz 2006). This report represents a synthesis of insights across the 14 partnerships with quotes presented anonymously to bring to life the experiences of partners. While these quotes reflect individual perspectives that are meaningful to the bigger picture, they may not be representative of all the partnerships.



Partnerships are dynamic.

They take on different forms over time in response to funding, commitment of key partners, external events and how the purpose and scope are defined.

Findings

★ Different types of partnerships have different costs, risks and benefits. Resilient high-performers find the right type of partnership to provide the greatest value proposition to partners. (See Figure 1, page 14)

Partnerships are dynamic and take on different forms over time in response to funding, commitment of key partners and how the purpose and scope are defined.

Partners and funders commit time and resources based on their perception of the value proposition, which may change over time in response to funding, external events or a shift in the key partners or scope.

Over their history, many of the 14 partnerships have moved along the continuum of partnership types, sometimes back and forth, with different levels of commitment and funding.

Coordinated and collaborative partnerships are often idealized as the model to strive for, yet learning networks or cooperative partnerships with lower costs and risks may have a higher value proposition, especially in the absence of long-term, reliable funding.

RECOMMENDATION

Create funding opportunities and support to sustain partnerships as learning networks, especially in the absence of large-scale implementation funding.

Continuum of Partnership Types



Different types of partnerships along a continuum from more autonomous to more interdependent have different costs, risks and benefits. Over time, partnerships may transition from being more autonomous to more interdependent. A better understanding of the value propositions of different partnership types can help partners and funders target their investments and set realistic expectations for short-term and long-term performance.

(Adapted from Habana-Hafner, S. and H. B. Reed. 1989. Partnerships for Community Developments. Center for International Education.)

★ Efficiency is critically important to performance and resiliency.

Collaboration is a double-edged sword. A more fully developed collaborative process is needed to develop trust and shared accountability, but an overly burdensome process directly stifles group morale, capacity to advance the work and retention of skilled leaders. While exceedingly grateful for the funding, partnerships consistently suggested ways to streamline the program. They also acknowledged OWEB's culture of collaboration and flexibility as critical to navigating the bureaucratic process.

RECOMMENDATION

Increase efficiencies in the FIP application process and grant administration wherever possible.

★ Large, inclusive partnerships that seek alignment and shared accountability have greater costs for coordination and partner engagement.

Efficiency is a more pronounced challenge for large, inclusive partnerships. A more collaborative approach to planning, implementation, reporting and accountability in these contexts has greater potential to be overly burdensome because of the logistics of keeping everyone engaged, aligned and responsive. There are also greater risks that the process will feel exclusive to new partners and that the cost of running the partnership cannot be sustained.

RECOMMENDATION

Revisit expectations in the FIP rules that partnerships should be inclusive. Provide additional capacity to coordinate inclusive partnerships.

★ Even as partnerships move toward increased coordination and alignment, they find shared accountability is a much higher bar to reach.

The 14 partnerships have aimed for increased coordination, and especially those focused on implementation, have made substantial progress, including:

Integrated Project Planning – multiple organizations propose and implement projects together;

Collective Reporting – partners agree on metrics to track and report progress sometimes to multiple funders; and

Cross-Organizational Learning – organizations learn from each other to propose better projects.

These are all key building blocks to develop a sense of shared accountability, where partners hold each other accountable to design and implement the best projects to advance their collective goals, yet shared accountability is a much higher bar to reach. Many, if not most, partnerships have found they are not quite able to ask those harder questions although they aspire to that goal.

RECOMMENDATION

Consider whether there is adequate, reliable funding for partnerships to operate at a higher level of coordination and shared accountability – or whether a more modest level of strategic planning and cooperative decision-making would provide a better value.

★ **More ambitious goals require careful facilitation and clarity around decision-making.** Innovative approaches to restoration, including work in ecosystems that are not well-understood, tend to yield greater differences in philosophy and expert opinion due to greater uncertainties and risks (Arnold and others 2012).

Many of the 14 partnerships have expanded the focus and complexity of their work, such as:

Working with new partners with different perspectives,

Broadening the scope to include multiple species or upland and in-stream habitat,

Expanding the geography to include basins with different hydrology and geology, and

Expanding objectives and prioritization to include social and economic considerations.

In these contexts, partners can work more productively through differences with more clarity around how decisions are made and by whom and more support for careful facilitation. Individuals from many of the partnerships expressed a strong interest to improve in these areas. Effective facilitators, which can be internal or external to the partnership, remind people of decisions already made and effectively open up discussion on key questions to fully leverage the wisdom and expertise of partners.

RECOMMENDATION

Create training opportunities for facilitation, team building, leadership and how to manage competition.

★ **Funding drives commitment among partners, which is critical to high performance and resiliency. Multiple aligned funders over longer time frames create the potential for greater impact.**

Trusting relationships, respected leadership, open communication, efficiency and a willingness to learn and act together are all critical to a partnership's success, but they are not sufficient for high performance and resiliency if funding is not in place.

Partnerships described a leap of faith when transitioning from strategic action planning to implementation. If implementation funding is not secured, partners may not be able to sustain their commitment, and the energy invested in the plan may not yield the value expected.

When funders are aligned, for example around priorities, timelines and reporting requirements, partners increase their

commitment to each other and are incentivized to develop systems of shared accountability to reach collective goals.

When multiple funders make aligned investments over longer timeframes, partners are better able to commit to a science-based approach to adaptive management that requires substantial investment in developing a planning, monitoring and decision-making framework.

RECOMMENDATION

Work with other funders to create alignment around funding priorities, grant duration and reporting and monitoring requirements to offer complementary partnership-focused investments.

★ **To effectively boost impact, the FIP grant program must consider the funding landscape beyond the two-year or six-year grant duration.**

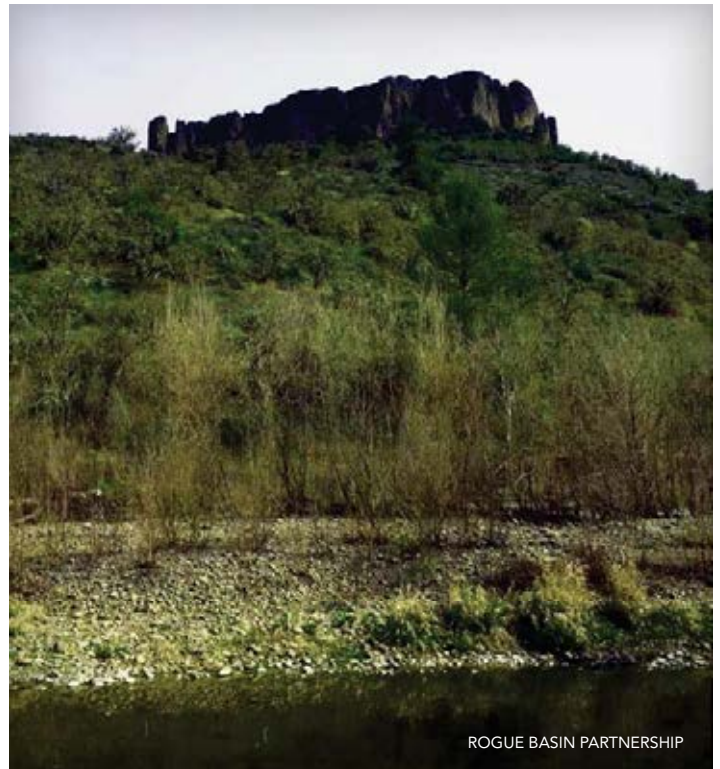
Many partners have said there is no roadmap for what funding will support their work after the FIP grant recognizing that sustained effort will be required on the order of decades, to realize desired ecological outcomes. While grantees were exceedingly grateful, many encouraged deeper thinking about the implications of a six-year timeframe. For many, the tight focus on an ambitious implementation timeline reduced capacity to maintain connection to the strategic action plan, continue updating it based on learning and develop new ideas for future opportunities. As partnerships concluded the two-year Development FIP grant, there was also considerable speculation and jostling about how to carve out the most competitive set of projects for their Implementation FIP application. A better understanding of the overall funding landscape and the value proposition of different partnerships types can help partnerships and funders target their investments and set realistic expectations for short-term and long-term performance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Meet with partnerships two years before the end of their six-year grant or at the end of their two-year grant to assess progress and help identify resources and a roadmap forward that holds the greatest value proposition.
- 2 Consider adjusting the grant duration, offering a two-year grant after an Implementation FIP grant or awarding a second six-year grant after a waiting period.

“I’m really grateful that our partnership has shown sustained success and growth — new partners and additional investment, national and even international attention. It is helping to transform how society is thinking about the bigger problem and, I think, cultivating the ground for a much larger increase in the pace, scale and quality of restoration. We are on the cusp of an orbital leap of what we are able to accomplish because of the success of this project.”

Implementation FIP grantee



ROGUE BASIN PARTNERSHIP

★ Partners need to reach broader audiences and constituencies to boost their efforts to a higher level. They have been exploring new approaches and expertise, but funding is limited to do so.

Many partners have felt they have had sufficient public awareness and support to be effective in the short term, yet they need to build broader awareness and support to reach long-term goals, especially for:

Efforts focused on public lands that will expand to private lands in the future or

Efforts focused on more liberal communities that would like to extend into more conservative communities.

Across partnerships, people recognized that you don’t have to win over the whole population to be effective, but you do have to communicate effectively with a smaller subset who care about these issues and who can be fierce critics in the absence of engagement and proactive efforts. Many partners have recognized this is an area where growth is needed and are seeking funding, tools and expertise along these lines.

RECOMMENDATION

Consider flexibility within the FIP program to fund communications and monitoring – needed to proactively build public support, improve practices and tell a meaningful, science-based story of progress – or work with other funders to address these critical gaps.

★ Tribes have unique and valuable perspectives with respect to long-term restoration goals.

Among the 14 partnerships, tribes have taken on a breadth of roles from a convening or leadership role to a peripheral or new partner. Tribal partners discussed a range of complexities that are often not well-understood but that heavily influence their interest and ability to engage. Partnerships requested more support and guidance on these topics. (See more in Part 1, pages 19-22).

RECOMMENDATION

Continue exploring creative approaches to support respectful tribal engagement and leadership.

Conclusion

Partners have greatly appreciated the opportunity to work and learn with OWEB through this study and this innovative partnership approach to restoration. The findings presented here aim to provide a roadmap and some next steps to push onward toward the next level of innovation and impact.



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Introduction

OWEB’s Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Program was inspired by the idea of “collective impact” that partnerships can uniquely leverage the collective capacity of multiple organizations and accelerate the pace and scale of restoration when partners are strategically aligned around shared priorities and committed to mutually reinforcing actions (Kania and Kramer 2011).

The goals of OWEB’s FIP program are two-pronged:

1 To accelerate restoration and increase impact at the landscape scale by awarding a small number of Implementation FIP grants to high-performing partnerships to implement projects on the ground (about \$6 million dollars each over 6 years) and



2 To increase capacity and performance of partnerships by awarding a slightly larger number of Development FIP grants, formerly called Capacity Building grants, to support development of a strategic action plan and/or governance documents, which describe how partners will work together (up to \$150,000 each over 2 years).

While both grants are competitive, the Implementation FIP grant has been highly competitive. In January 2016, the OWEB Board awarded \$13.7 million to fourteen partnerships:

| | PURPOSE | AMT/TIME | FUNDED PARTNERSHIPS |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| Development FIP grants <i>(formerly Capacity Building FIP grants)</i> | Develop partnership capacity, e.g., a strategic action plan, governance documents, a funding plan, etc. | Up to \$150,000 each over 2 years | 8 Partnerships: Clackamas Basin Partnership John Day Basin Partnership Oregon Central Coast Estuaries Collaborative Rogue Basin Partnership Siuslaw Coho Partnership Umpqua Basin Partnership Willowa Habitat Restoration Partnership Wild Rivers Estuary Partnership |
| Implementation FIP grants | Implement large-scale, on-the-ground restoration projects, including some technical assistance and focused outreach | About \$6 million each over 6 years | 6 Partnerships: Ashland Forest All Lands Restoration Initiative Deschutes Partnership Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership Harney Basin Wetland Initiative Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse Willamette Anchor Habitat Working Group |

As OWEB launched this program, they recognized it was very different from their other grant programs. Their thinking was that the FIP grant offerings would incentivize the development of more formalized partnerships with well-developed strategic action plans and governance documents across the state, which would increase the collective capacity for landscape-scale restoration and attract more funding in general terms – whether or not the work of a particular partnership would be funded through a FIP grant. OWEB initiated this study to better understand how the FIP program can advance statewide restoration priorities through investments in partnerships.



Guiding Questions

1 What do partnerships need to be resilient and maintain a high level of performance and impact?

2 How can OWEB improve and innovate the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) program to support high performing, resilient partnerships that make progress toward desired ecological outcomes?

Methods

To guarantee confidentiality and encourage candid feedback, OWEB contracted with an independent social scientist Jennifer Arnold, Ph.D. of Reciprocity Consulting LLC. From Fall 2016 to Spring 2018, Jennifer reached out to all 14 funded partnerships:

- **Attended a meeting of each of the 14 partnerships** that received a FIP grant in 2016. (lasting 3-15 hours)
- **Participated in 4 conference calls** (1.5-2 hours) with representatives of 8 partnerships hosted by OWEB to encourage peer-to-peer learning among Development FIP grantees

- **Conducted interviews with 47 partners** from diverse backgrounds lasting 30-90 minutes to understand the history, context and vision for each partnership, including expected benefits and costs from the partnership and their approaches to managing challenges and risks
- **Received survey feedback from 136 partners** across the 14 partnerships using a confidential online survey (See Appendix) that asked about experiences with the partnership and suggestions for what is most needed to build a resilient partnership, and
- Analyzed interviews, surveys and meeting notes using a **qualitative approach called grounded theory** which builds an explanation of the system inductively from the collective experiences and reflections of participants (*Charmaz 2006*).

Diversity of Partnerships

The 14 partnerships that are the focus of this project have different histories and context, which influence the culture of the group, how they work together, their ability to attract key partners, their potential for fundraising and their outlook for large-scale implementation. Aspects of diversity are described in more detail in Part 1 (see pages 3-5) and include:

- Time that partners have worked together
- Number and size of partner organizations
- Tribal involvement and potential for competing tribal interests
- Agency involvement and the longevity of staff in key positions
- Regional and national environmental non-profit involvement
- Mix of urban and rural communities and proximity to large or affluent urban areas
- “Anchor” funders with an interest in the focus area
- Mix of younger and experienced professionals with connections to local communities
- Prior experience with strategic planning and/or collaborative groups
- Prior experience contributing to the development of OWEB’s FIP Program
- Geographic scope and breadth of activities covered in the strategic action plan
- Rules defining “membership” and
- Degree of formalization of the partnership structure.



A Useful Way to Think About Partnerships

Partnerships are networks of people and organizations working together to advance shared interests. They operate on the fundamental belief that partners can achieve more collectively than individually. Partnerships require a great deal of upfront investment in relationship building, typically one to three years (See Part 1 pages 43-46), and once a partnership is established, there are inherent costs and challenges related to communication, decision-making, and coordinated action (Brouwer and others 2015).

Partners and funders commit time and resources based on their perception that the expected value of the partnership outweighs the costs, challenges, and risks. Various

internal or external events, such as changes in staffing or policies, may influence people’s perceptions of the value and costs of the partnership, and thus partners’ commitment and the overall performance of the partnership. A resilient partnership emphasizes learning and feedback to continually build confidence in the value of the partnership and actively manage the inherent costs, challenges, and risks to maintain a strong value proposition that can maintain engagement despite crisis and change (Habana-Hafner and others 1989; Cigler 1999).

For partnership champions and funders, understanding the range of partnership types can help guide the group strategically toward the structure that best fits the history, context and value proposition for partners. From the Public Administration literature, partnerships are described along a continuum where partners are more autonomous at one end and more interdependent at the other (Habana-Hafner and others 1989; Cigler 1999; Mandell 2001).

Continuum of Partnership Types



(Adapted from Habana-Hafner, S. and H. B. Reed. 1989. *Partnerships for Community Developments*. Center for International Education.)

LEARNING NETWORKS

Partners come together to share information but may have little formal connection or shared work together.

COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Partners remain autonomous, while sharing responsibilities for specific projects, such as a contractual relationship or task force.

COORDINATED PARTNERSHIPS

Partners retain most of their autonomy, but actively work with each other to align their missions and activities to strategically advance mutual goals.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Partners commit to a long-term shared vision and take on complementary roles and responsibilities to achieve that vision, often referred to as the collective impact model (Kania and Kramer 2011).

The key distinction is the degree to which individual partners remain separate and autonomous or form new combined organizational structures for long-term change and interaction (Cigler 1999, Mandell 2001). They also represent different purposes and structural characteristics that require different levels of trust, depth of communication, investment in partnership operations, and length of time to develop. As you move from left to right on the continuum, you find increasing:

- Complexity of purpose,
- Intensity of linkages,
- Formality of agreements,
- Commitment to each other and greater whole,
- Interdependence of purpose and operations,
- Risk to individual organizations,
- Capacity to achieve systems change, and
- Investment in governance and communications

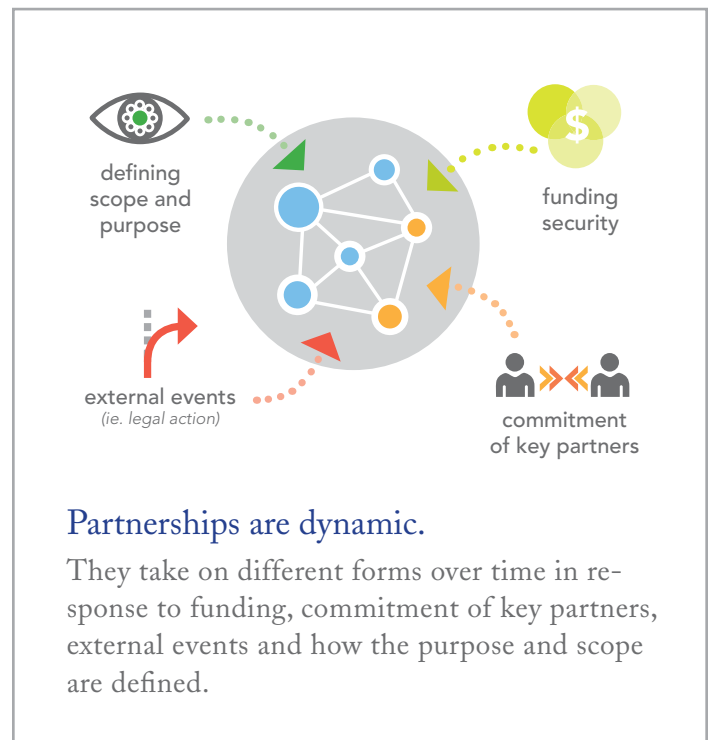
Partnerships are dynamic and may shift along this continuum over time, for example in response to changes in leadership, a crisis, or opportunity. Common challenges frequently encountered by even the most successful partnerships include:

- High staff turnover,
- Personality clashes, including institutional and cultural differences,
- Coping with high expectations,
- Reducing transaction costs, and
- Maintaining the interest of the private business sector (Sanginga and others 2007).

Often new partnerships establish first as a coordinated network and may evolve to a collaborative network with pooled resources and a combined organizational structure as trust and commitment build over time (Raine and Watt 2013). Conversely, some partnerships operate quite effectively as a learning network or cooperative partnership, and the expected value of a more complex, collaborative structure does not offset the increased costs. Some partnerships are established for a specific purpose and time period, which again may not warrant a more resource-intensive collaborative structure. Partnerships are highly dynamic and do not necessarily follow linear trajectories of development (Mandell and Keast 2008).

Findings

The 14 partnerships in this study represented the full range of partnership types (See Figure 1, page 14) They differ greatly with respect to their history and context. Many have taken on different forms over time in response to changes in funding, commitment of key partners, external events, such as changes in policy or litigation, and how the purpose and scope have been defined.



These findings represent a distillation and synthesis of insights across the 14 partnerships interpreting how each of their contexts shape the larger picture of how partnerships function and what is important for high performance and impact.

Confidential interviews yielded candid feedback, and anonymous quotes in this report are used to bring to life the words and specific experiences of partners. While these quotes reflect individual perspectives that are meaningful to the bigger picture, they may not be representative of all the partnerships.

What do partnerships need to be resilient, high-performers?

1 Different types of partnerships have different costs, risks and benefits. Resilient, high-performers find the right type of partnership to provide the greatest value proposition to partners. (See Figure 1, page 14)

The partnerships in this study have each provided different value and required different levels of resources to be effective. Looking back at the history of each partnership, many have moved along the continuum of partnership types, sometimes back and forth, with different levels of commitment and interdependency at different times in large part driven by funding.

Coordinated or collaborative partnerships, which require a high level of alignment and coordination among partners, are often believed to provide the greatest value and are held up as an ideal that all partnerships should work toward. However, learning networks and cooperative partnerships, which require less investment and hold less risk for individual partners, may provide a greater return on investment in many or most contexts. Cooperative partnerships, in particular, which are typically structured to achieve specific project deliverables, can be an efficient way to accelerate implementation and impact.



Learning networks in many cases have had a negative stigma as funders and partners feel there is a risk that learning may not be focused on strategic questions and may not directly increase performance or capacity for impact – or if it did, it would be difficult to quantify or track. However, there is ample literature to suggest if well-designed and targeted, learning networks can and do have great impact (Brown and Salafsky 2004; Senge 2006; Wenger and others 2002). Also, partners clearly expressed the need to strengthen relationships and increase communication and learning to avoid working in silos and proposing piecemeal projects suggesting that the value proposition for learning networks has not yet been fully explored.

“I’m a fan of collaboration in this mechanism where there is a start and an end. I’m an action oriented person. I like to see results from our discussion. Especially working with our land owners, if they commit to restoration, we need to walk the talk and provide technical and financial assistance to do projects so we can demonstrate impact 10 years down the road.”

Core Partner

“I appreciate the cultural shift even in the few years since the I-FIP grant. Connecting more frequently, sharing ideas and plans, technical knowledge and peer-to-peer sharing is great. It will help the greater movement. I hope we can keep that culture going even when the funding for implementation isn’t there.”

Core Partner

Figure 1

Identifying the Value Proposition of Different Partnership Types

Different types of partnerships along a continuum from more autonomous to more interdependent have different costs, risks and benefits. Over time, partnerships may transition from being more autonomous to more interdependent and even back again, often driven by funding and the value proposition of the partnership as perceived by key partners and funders. A better understanding of the value propositions of different partnership types can help partners and funders target their investments and set realistic expectations for short-term and long-term performance.

More autonomous

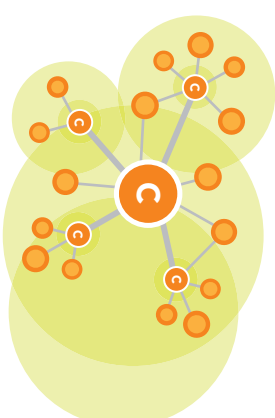
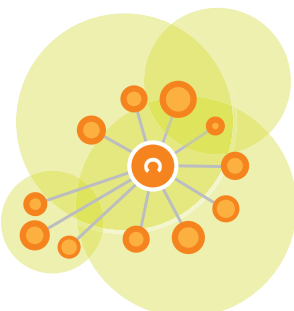
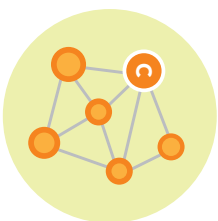
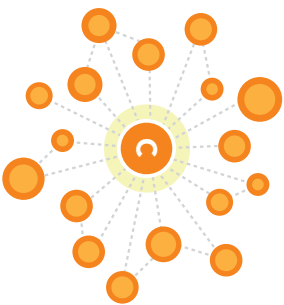
More interdependent

Learning Network

Cooperative Partnership

Coordinating Partnership

Collaborative Partnership



Purpose: Share information, improve on best practices and build social capital for future collaboration.

Usually a large number of partners.

C Coordinator serves as an ambassador and convener.

\$ A low level of investment focused on convening, learning and communication.



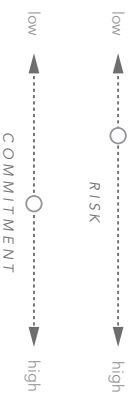
Partners are **loosely committed** to high-level strategic priorities for learning and communication.

Purpose: Increase capacity to implement projects identified as a shared priority.

Usually a small number of partners.

C Coordinator serves as a project manager, often a role taken by one of the partners, in some cases rotated among partners.

\$ A moderate to high level of investment focused on project implementation.



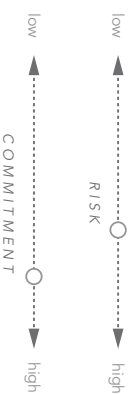
Partners are **moderately committed** to a strategic action plan as long as there is funding for implementation.

Purpose: Align partners around shared priorities and coordinate implementation.

Usually a moderate number of partners.

C Coordinator serves as facilitator and project manager

\$ A high level of sustained investment, typically multiple large funders, focused on planning and implementation with some outreach and monitoring.



Partners are **moderately to strongly committed** to a strategic action plan. Their commitment is renewed with each new round of funding.

Purpose: Align around shared priorities, coordinate implementation and improve outcomes through science-based adaptive management.

Usually a moderate to large number of partners.

C Coordinator serves as a facilitator, convener and ambassador. If the structure includes work groups, the coordinators of these work groups serve as project managers.

\$ A very high level of sustained investment, typically multiple aligned funders, focused on planning, implementation, monitoring, outreach and adaptive management.



Partners are **strongly committed** to a strategic action plan and an adaptive management framework based on reliable long-term funding.

2 Funding drives commitment among partners, which is critical to high performance and resiliency.

Funding that has required or promoted collaborative work, such as OWEB's FIP program, has pushed partnerships toward being more interdependent.

"The process for applying [for an Implementation FIP grant] although complicated does a great job of pushing partnerships to organize for successful planning, implementation and monitoring of projects."

"The FIP program helps to form resilient partnerships by forcing partners to work together through the implementation of the FIP grant itself. Significant relationships can be built in 6 years, whereas the partnership may have unraveled without funding to help push it along for those 6 years."

"Money drives commitment in a big way. However, not all project concepts evolve the way they were initially thought of, so commitments have to also evolve."

Quotes from Core Partners

3 Aligned funders create greater commitment and shared accountability among partners, for example when funders are aligned around priorities, timelines, reporting requirements, etc. Aligned funders over longer timeframes create the potential for greater impact and the possibility of science-based, landscape-scale adaptive management.

The most pronounced examples of collaborative, integrated work among the 14 partnerships have developed alongside the alignment of multiple large funders, referring to complementary or mutually reinforcing funding priorities, timelines, reporting requirements, etc. In essence, significant funding awarded to the partnership drives greater commitment and interdependency. And greater alignment among funders especially over longer

timeframes motivates even greater commitment and integration among partners, to the point where partners are willing to invest in shared structures for planning, reporting and continuous improvement that go beyond grant requirements.

This long-term commitment that develops from aligned, reliable funding creates more long-term possibilities to effectively implement a collaborative approach to science-based, landscape-scale adaptive management – which is the idealized vision of how partnerships can collectively increase their impact, often referred to as collective impact (Kania and Kramer 2011) or collaborative adaptive management (Scarlett 2013; Susskind and others 2012).

Alignment among funders is extremely valuable with the caveat that flexibility is also critically important to partnership performance. Many partnerships were able to increase performance because they had the flexibility within their portfolio of funders to mix and match project proposals and funding sources based on project duration, geographic focus, specified land ownership and preferred type of activity, etc. If funders were too rigidly aligned around the same priorities or requirements, partnerships might not have this type of flexibility.

4 Trusting relationships, respected leadership, open communication, efficiency and a willingness to learn and act together are critical to success, but not sufficient for high performance and resiliency if funding is not in place.

While commitment has largely been driven by funding, partners described how their success and ability to live up to the partnership's potential was largely tied to their ability to build trust and open communication so that partners work effectively together and build public support. However, even with high levels of trust and willingness to work together, partners described a clear risk that without funding to support their collective work they may not be able to maintain strong linkages and continue working together in a sustained way (See Part 1 pages 25-27). Overall, this study finds that partner commitment is largely driven by funding and efficiency, while collective success is largely also driven by trusting relationships, respected leadership, open communication and a willingness to learn and act together.

“One of the problems that that I see crop up from time to time is the lack of monetary compensation for participation as this can take away time and energy from partners’ day-to-day work. Right now, we have all decided that this is worth it, but in the long run, we all will need to dedicate time and resources we sometimes don’t have readily available. Monitoring and evaluation programs are time consuming and don’t get enough funding to provide the necessary feedback to the partners.”

Core Partner

In many cases, partnerships have invested significant resources in relationship building and planning to stretch and grow to a higher level of commitment along the continuum where they hope to more intentionally integrate their work and attract partnership funding to tackle ambitious landscape-scale objectives. In other cases, partnerships have experienced trust issues, but they continue to work effectively together and realize success because of the interdependency established by the funding along with commitment to their shared vision and pride in their work.

5 Integrated project planning, collective reporting and cross-organizational learning are key building blocks to developing a sense of shared accountability for greater impact. Shared accountability is a much higher bar to reach.

Based on long-term reliable funding or good prospects for funding and high partner commitment, most partnerships focused on implementation have made substantial progress toward integrated project planning, collective reporting and cross-organizational learning – although achieving shared accountability is still a work in progress.

Several partnerships have promoted integrated project planning by defining partner roles and structuring work groups in ways that require different organizational partners to work together in designing and implementing projects. Yet for many partnerships, projects are still proposed and implemented by individual organizations working relatively independently of each other. Thinking into the future, many of these partners are increasingly

interested in developing collaborative projects, referring to the difference between “slicing the pie,” as in dividing available funding among partners, and “expanding the pie,” as in working together creatively to attract more funding. However, partners need a certain level of trust and capacity to invest the time and take on the risk of developing project proposals jointly and jointly applying for funding.

“Our partnership is strong and stable but also growing and strengthening as partners are slowly beginning to collaborate more and more on a project level with one another.”

“This is relatively new for the old guy in the room. We can let some project ideas fall off the list if there are better ideas in the room. We have the opportunity to talk about it instead of sending a flurry of applications to the funder independently.”

“The partnership and FIP grant has helped to align our groups to work more closely together toward a shared common goal. We are really getting to know each much better, building trust between one another and collaborating much more with one another than ever before. Several of us have taken on new projects together as a result of getting to know and trust each other more through our partnership.”

Quotes from Core Partners

Most partnerships, which are actively focused on implementation, have made progress developing systems to report collectively across funding sources, typically focused on outputs, but in some cases also ecological outcomes. Most partners realized quickly that this is no small lift and requires capacity to agree on categories of data to track, to collect and manage data and to generate reports that are meaningful to different audiences. Several

partnerships have invested time and resources in developing databases and a streamlined workflow to maximize efficiency and the usefulness of data collected and shared. Time for discussion and agreement is needed to identify processes and metrics that work for everyone, including considerations for land owner privacy and expectations for how data will be analyzed and used. Some partnerships used grant funds to develop databases and improve workflow. Some partners have reported investing considerably more time than budgeted, but admit the investment is worthwhile if it establishes a system that everyone can use moving forward assuming the partnership continues to attract funding.

Most partnerships discussed clear “wins” in cross-organization learning, mostly directed at improving best practices and project implementation, as a result of more frequent communication, better established relationships and in some cases the technical review process. Partnerships have approached technical review in different ways. Some technical review teams have been initiated by OWEB, while others were already established by the partnerships and influenced by other funders. Not all partners view the technical review process as beneficial primarily due to the inefficiencies and awkwardness of the bureaucratic process. However, many partners do find value in technical review beyond the funder’s requirement for due diligence, especially when there is a site visit component or other facilitated forum to encourage learning among project proponents and technical reviewers that goes beyond receiving and responding to comments.

“Meeting quarterly seems good for our group. I think it would be really helpful for us to have at least one field trip annually to see partner projects on the ground so we can also be collaborating on successes, challenges etc. Conversations will be very different when on site compared to in a meeting room all day.”

Core Partner

Many partners had specific suggestions for improving the technical review process to enhance cross-organizational learning, for example developing a structured decision-making framework, inviting in specialized technical experts, providing support for stronger facilitation and creating layers of review to tease out strategic policy

questions from technical issues. Partners who shared some of these suggestions had mixed feelings about how to share their ideas with funders and/or other partners, which indicates room for improvement to promote open communication and shared accountability.

Overall, developing a sense of shared accountability, where organizations hold each other accountable to effectively implement projects and advance the larger collective vision, is a much higher bar than integrated planning or collective reporting. Shared accountability requires significant trust, well-developed communication skills, strong and diplomatic leaders and a culture centered around feedback, learning and adaptation to achieve the collective vision. As one partner explained, we have not yet developed the trust to ask those harder questions during project development and technical review, but that is where we would like to go.

“I feel responsible for my specific project. I feel zero commitment in other people’s projects. Ideally, I guess we would all want to see one another succeed, but there is a weird level of competition and few incentives to cooperate when we compete for funding.”

“People are just starting to share projects – they are not yet asking deeper questions to critique each other’s projects. They are still careful and polite and don’t want to step on toes. If I were to ask those deeper questions as the coordinator, they might stop responding to my emails.”

Quotes from Core Partners

Not surprisingly, this is a persistent challenge in partnerships since accountability can be a sizeable challenge even in well-run traditional organizations that have the luxury of clear lines of authority with policies and procedures to promote accountability in job descriptions, work plans, performance reviews, promotion criteria, etc. (Senge 2006).

Partnerships that demonstrated the clearest examples of integrated planning and collective reporting, which are the building blocks of shared accountability, come from partnerships where there is some alignment among large

fundors. This seems to drive coordination and collaboration most even where trust among partners is limited. In some partnerships, trust among partners and commitment to a larger vision have created the push for integrated planning, but even in these cases, partner commitment to implementation and accountability has become clearer and more explicit when funders are aligned.

6 When working with innovative restoration approaches or in ecosystems not well-understood, partnerships benefit from more clarity around decision-making and more support for careful facilitation to productively work through differences in philosophy and expert opinion.

Innovative approaches to restoration, including restoration in ecosystems that are not well-understood, tend to yield greater differences in philosophy and expert opinion – for good reason, because there are greater uncertainties and greater risks about whether planned activities will have the desired impacts (Arnold and others 2012). However, the potential for learning is also greater in these situations and arguably that learning is critical to the recovery of priority species and habitats.

In these contexts, partners are better able to productively work through differences in philosophy and expert opinion when there is more clarity around decision-making, for example clarity for how decisions are made and by whom, and support for careful facilitation. Individuals from many of the partnerships expressed a strong interest in improving in this area. Effective facilitators, whether internal or external to the partnership, can remind people of decisions already made through the accepted process and effectively open up discussion on key questions to fully take advantage of the wisdom and expertise of the partnership. (See *benefits and risks of internal and external facilitators in Part 1 pages 27-28.*)

Several partnerships also discussed the challenge of teasing apart philosophical questions at the level of strategic action planning, for example what type of restoration activities are prioritized in what areas, and technical questions at the level of project development, for example best practices for weed control or placing woody debris in sensitive wetland areas. In some cases, philosophical issues are not identified until specific projects are discussed through the technical review process. For example, in some cases, new partners or new experts to the technical review process have stepped into a partnership with questions about decisions that were already fully vetted



“While we meet fairly regularly, we still need to work on developing a clear decision-making process. Are we a democracy with majority rules or is there room for dissenting opinions? We don’t have this down yet, and it does lead to some confusion among partners. That being said, we are light years ahead from where we were just six or seven years ago.”

“This group often uses a ‘consensus’ model in which two or three vocal individuals express their thoughts openly. If the other individuals in the group remain silent instead of agreeing or disagreeing, then the group facilitator assumes they have reached group ‘consensus.’ Silence can’t be interpreted as consensus since many team members don’t feel comfortable disagreeing with others publicly.”

Quotes from Core Partners

and established. If the new person represents a key constituency and the partnership would like to encourage their long-term commitment, it may be important to slow down and revisit decisions. In other cases, facilitators can reiterate the decisions already made to bring the new person up to speed and move onto other discussion topics. In the worst-case scenario if not handled well, these situations can lead to hard feelings, distrust and frustra-



tion among partners who either feel shut out of a decision or who feel paralyzed that the work is not moving forward despite past decisions to do so.

Partners highlighted a few key steps to facilitate these philosophical and technical conversations smoothly:

- documenting key strategic decisions and providing a clear rationale for each,
- clarifying who makes decisions in strategic action planning and in the technical review process,
- ensuring everyone feels comfortable sharing their views, and
- clarifying how consensus is reached.

On this last point, partners from a few different partnerships described a familiar situation where the facilitator would ask if everyone was in agreement and when people nodded and no one spoke up, the facilitator concluded that consensus had been reached. These partners felt that at times there were differences of opinion where the group would have benefited from more discussion and that facilitators could use more training and clarity on how to facilitate consensus building. Some partners also suggested that training and mentoring on facilitation, team building, leadership and how to manage competition would greatly help partnership performance.

RECOMMENDATION

Create training and mentoring opportunities for facilitation, team building, leadership and how to manage competition.

7 Partners need to reach broader audiences and constituencies to boost their efforts to a higher level. They have been exploring new approaches and expertise, but funding is limited to do so.

Most partnerships have built community credibility through the diversity of their boards (or the boards of their partner organizations), who represent different interest groups, constituencies and sectors. Also, a few partnerships have had remarkable success developing trust and buy-in among landowners – and much can be learned from them. Yet most partnerships have admitted that their potential to build public awareness and support in a broader sense is underdeveloped. Many partners felt they have had sufficient public awareness and support to be effective in the short term, yet they need to build broader awareness and support to reach long-term goals, especially for efforts focused on public lands that will expand to private lands in the future or efforts focused on more liberal communities that would like to extend into more conservative communities.

“You’re not going to resolve most natural resource issues within boundaries, especially if you want to maintain ecological productivity. Most habitat is on private lands, not just the federal lands. If we want to be effective, we have to work with private land owners, and we need relationships to do that.”

Core Partner

Across partnerships, people recognized that you don’t have to win over the whole population to be effective, but you do have to communicate effectively with a smaller subset who care about these issues and who can be fierce critics in the absence of engagement and proactive efforts. However, across the partnerships concern was expressed that few funding sources are available for proactively building relationships and conducting education and outreach, which limits the time and capacity that people have to dedicate to reaching these broader audiences.

“The inability to implement restoration actions on private land has posed a chronic challenge.”

Core Partner

“While the entire public is not even interested in being informed, the few that are want it badly. They will get information from the partnership, as well as potential detractors, so it is important to provide the positive narrative.”

“For the most part, 80% or more of our public has no interest in this work, so the support (or lack thereof) from the 20% becomes magnified (or not). This is a challenge to us only in that the interested 20% of the public can drive debate, discord and delay around our project implementation schedule and costs.”

Quotes from Core Partners

Despite this limitation, some partnerships have been positioning themselves to boost their efforts to a higher level of engagement working with consultants, hiring communications staff and/or relying on in-kind partner contributions. These partnerships have worked on a range of engagement and communications activities, such as:

- defining specific target audiences,
- more intentionally building relationships for example through a neighbor-to-neighbor approach,
- building a “library” of successful restoration projects for public tours,
- developing a communications plan,
- building an online and social media presence,
- increasing visibility through videos and storytelling, and
- working with social scientists to understand social acceptability and economic trade-offs.

Many partners have recognized this is an area where growth is needed and are seeking funding, tools and expertise along these lines. (See Part 1 pages 22-24 for more examples.)



“We need more outreach and education to the community about progress and successes. We want to do this, but it’s hard to find time, capacity and funding for it. We need to come up with an achievable communication and outreach plan, and we need to have specific messages for defined audiences (current grant funders, potential grant funders, farmers and rural residential, urban, etc.). We need more funding to achieve this.”

“When we look at the landscape, everyone really loves the word resilient. What does it mean? Adaptive to change. It’s really hard because so much stuff is changing all the time, human conditions, economics, climate change, sea level — you have to more realistic about the timeline. It’s got to evolve organically. You’ve got to respect the people that live there. I asked land owners why they were willing to work with me. They said, you walked into this room and you really cared about what we had to say and you didn’t have an agenda. That’s why we said we want to work with someone like you.”

Quotes from Core Partners

8 Tribes have unique and valuable perspectives with respect to long-term restoration goals. Partners requested more support to respectfully engage tribes.

Among the 14 partnerships, tribes have taken on a breadth of roles from a convening or leadership role to a supporting or new partner. As discussed in Part 1 of the report, tribal partners discussed a range of complexities that are often not well-understood but that heavily influence their interest and ability to engage (See Part 1 pages 19-22).

After reviewing Part 1, many non-tribal partners expressed a strong interest in this section of the report, especially some partnership leaders who are highly motivated to build stronger relationships with tribes. Several partners acknowledged that their standard approach of calling or emailing tribal representatives about upcoming meetings falls far short of their goals for tribal engagement. People have been very interested in tools and strategies to build authentic tribal engagement, yet relationship building takes time and capacity is often limited. Several partners expressed gratitude for the training presented by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and organized by the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils.

RECOMMENDATION

Continue exploring creative approaches to support respectful tribal engagement and leadership.

9 Efficiency is critically important to performance and resiliency. Collaboration is a double-edged sword. A more fully developed collaborative process is needed to develop shared accountability, but an overly burdensome process directly stifles group morale, capacity to advance the work and retention of skilled leaders.

Keeping partnerships functioning smoothly is no small task – both for coordinators who provide leadership and connectivity, but also for individual partners who must keep up with decisions at the partnership level along with specific tasks associated with planning, outreach, proposal development, project management, technical review, reporting, etc. The more time-intensive or bureaucratic any of these tasks become, the more risk there is that partners might not be willing or able to follow through, which can directly impact group morale.

Some partners brought up the risk that an overly burdensome or bureaucratic process may push skilled leaders to

“The biggest challenge is commitment of time, not that I’m not willing. It’s just easy for this work to bump to a second or third priority as other things come up that are more important to my primary responsibilities, especially knowing that someone else will step up.”

Supporting Partner

look for other opportunities where they would have more capacity or flexibility to do the work they are most passionate about. Partnerships broadly expressed that the real cost of keeping everyone connected, informed, engaged and making decisions together is generally underestimated and underfunded. And yet to realize the ideal of a collaborating partnership through greater interdependence and shared accountability requires greater investment and complexity at each step to maintain buy-in and incorporate learning into implementation.

Many partnerships have an informal style of running meetings and communicating with each other as a result of working together for many years. Yet many partners also emphasized the value of formalizing their partnership as a result of the FIP grant, which led them to have more open conversations about scope, vision, roles, responsibilities and decision-making – the importance of this step was especially emphasized by some tribal partners (see Part 1 page 21). An informal approach can be more efficient as long as leaders are able to maintain trust and open communication so that all partners can contribute to planning and prioritization decisions, which becomes more difficult as the partnership stretches to achieve more ambitious goals, work in new geographies and/or include new partners as evidenced by the partners who felt strongly that more clarity was needed around decision-making (see Finding 6 above).

“One of the partners felt we needed a partnership document early on – an agreement of how we will work together. We said, ‘No, we know how.’ But ultimately, they were right. We needed an inter-organizational agreement to resolve issues that came up. We haven’t returned to it since, but we can go back to our agreement if something does come up.”

Core Partner

In some partnerships, trust has been stretched thin, and partners have different expectations for roles and work products, which have not been fully discussed leading to tensions and even divisions in some cases. Partnerships that have long-term underlying trust issues require more time and investment to manage tensions and perceptions of territoriality. Across the partnerships, there was interest in more tools, support and access to coaching to help partners proactively work through challenging trust issues and build a framework for open communication that would free up time and energy to advance their work, ultimately increasing efficiency and performance.

“Sometimes partners can’t articulate or identify the type of help they need. Professional coaches could come in and help partners with internal relationships and mechanics. OWEB might not be the right funding source, but some partners might need things like that to advance to the next level challenges.”

“The most challenging is the combo of different levels of commitment and engagement from different stakeholders and tension with different people’s priorities that shift over time too. It’s frustrating and hard. Sometimes you click with some personalities and with others you don’t.”

Quotes from Core Partner

When considering efficiency, governance documents are another area where important conversations and decisions can help set a foundation for success, while too much time or formality can feel burdensome. Many partners described governance documents as useful, especially the conversations that went into developing them, but they also emphasized that respected leadership and group culture was equally or more important to building trust, open communication and ultimately working effectively together.

RECOMMENDATION

Provide more tools and leadership training on group dynamics and governance could so partnerships can “right-size” their governance documents, including defining roles, responsibilities and decision-making rules.

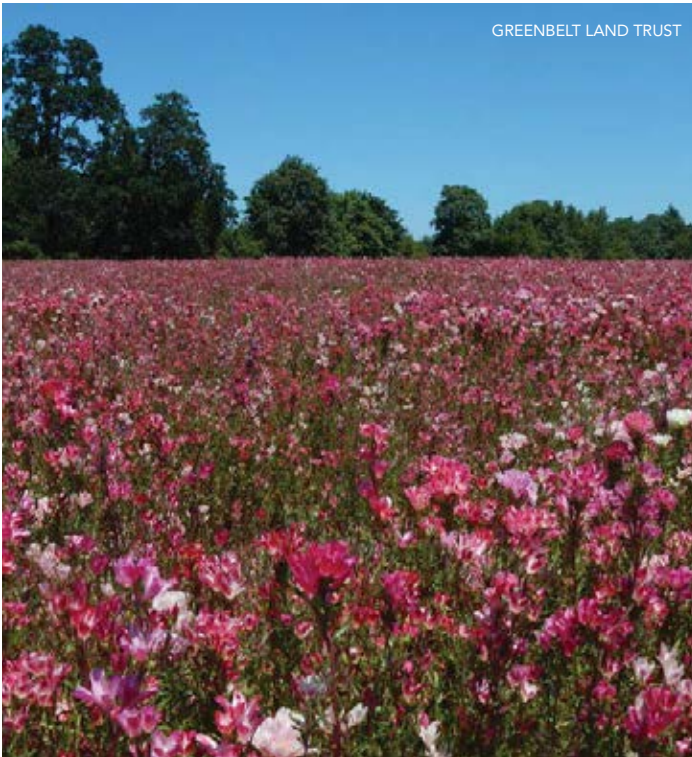
10 Large, inclusive partnerships that seek alignment and shared accountability have greater costs for coordination and partner engagement. Efficiency is a more pronounced challenge. There are greater risks that the process will be overly burdensome and feel exclusive to new partners. There are also greater risks that the cost of running the partnership cannot be sustained.

Large, inclusive partnerships that cover a broad geographic area and encourage new participants have even higher costs for outreach, onboarding and ongoing communications. A coordinated or collaborative approach to planning, implementation, reporting and accountability in these contexts has greater potential to be overly burdensome because of the logistics of keeping everyone engaged, aligned and responsive. The amount of time required for active engagement and the limited implementation funding available to each partner may create significant barriers for participation. In some of these seemingly inclusive partnerships, new partners have felt excluded or that they had to be persistent to find an opening to participate.

“About a year ago I engaged with this group. There were LOTS of phone calls and emails with our coordinator. I had such a steep learning curve. It’s a little hard to engage in a funding process when there are no funds on the table for you, but you are written down as a partner. It’s been a challenge at some points to convince our board that it’s worth the staff time to go.”

New Partner

Coordination for these large successful partnerships requires in-kind or general capacity funding, but this type of flexible funding at the scale required is difficult to secure. In many cases, it is only available in specific geographies or habitats where funding agencies or private donors have existing investments. With these costs and inefficiencies associated with large, inclusive partnerships, there is greater risk that the process will be overly burdensome and that there will not be long-term funding to support coordination and broad partner engagement.



“In hindsight, there is too little money for the role of coordinating such a large partnership. I was totally naïve about that. I completely underestimated. A lot of things would be good for partners to know – reporting on funder priorities and interpreting technical review comments – but there’s not a lot of capacity for me to do that. People start cutting budgets, and you cut in those places because you want the projects on the ground.”

Core Partner

Shared accountability can also be a bigger lift in large, inclusive partnerships. Coordinators, especially of inclusive partnerships, carefully weigh efficiency and diplomacy as they reach out to partners to request input, feedback or participation in shared work. They have a key vantage point to see gaps in follow-through and offer feedback or ask hard questions to improve shared accountability. However, they also realize that if they push too hard or ask for too much from partners, they risk overwhelming or alienating them, which could actually reduce participation and follow-through, for example asking partners to contribute to a shared reporting database that is different from other reporting requirements or asking partners to reprioritize proposed projects based on new information.

11 A roadmap for how to sustain funding is critical for resiliency. A better understanding of the value propositions of different partnerships types can help partnerships and funders target their investments in planning and set realistic expectations for short-term and long-term performance.

Many partners have said there is no roadmap for what funding will support their work after the Implementation FIP grant – or after the Development FIP grant if they are not successful in getting an Implementation FIP grant. After the Implementation FIP grant, some partnerships may be close to completing the actions in their strategic action plan if it addressed a focused scope of work and geography that was designed to fit the six-year funding window for the FIP grant (See Figure 2, pages 24-25, Scenario A). These partnerships may be ready to transition their work to a maintenance and monitoring phase. Other partnerships focused on large-scale, complex restoration challenges will have to secure additional funding to continue working in a coordinated or collaborative partnership.

“From a partner perspective, it’s going to be a challenge. I don’t know if other partnerships have gotten to this part where initial investments to keep partners at the table are not there the way they were in the past.”

“Frankly you don’t have resiliency without institutional funding. You build the capacity, the strategic thinking, the ability to fundraise – that’s your resiliency – but there needs to be institutional funding if you want the partnerships to thrive in the future. Otherwise it will be hard to them together.”

Quotes from Core Partners

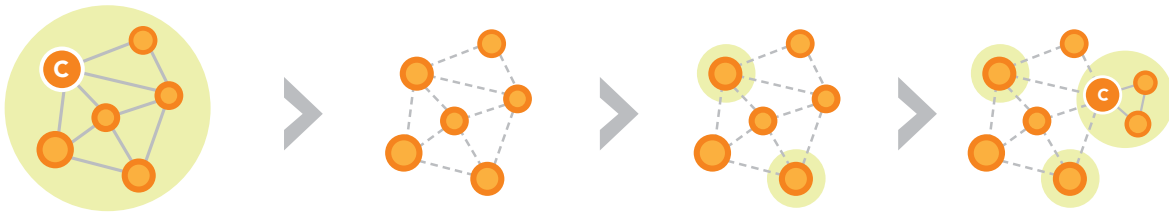
Many partnerships have said they have some flexibility for general capacity support to hold the partnership together after the FIP grant, but the long-term outlook will depend on what funding opportunities can be lined up (See Figure 2, pages 24-25, Scenarios B and C). A few partnerships have other large reliable funding sources, but many of these are also scheduled to ramp down over the next few years. Several partnerships have been optimistic that they will attract other large funders to support a high level of collaboration even though their sources might not yet be fully identified.

Figure 2

A Roadmap for Partnerships with Different Funding Options



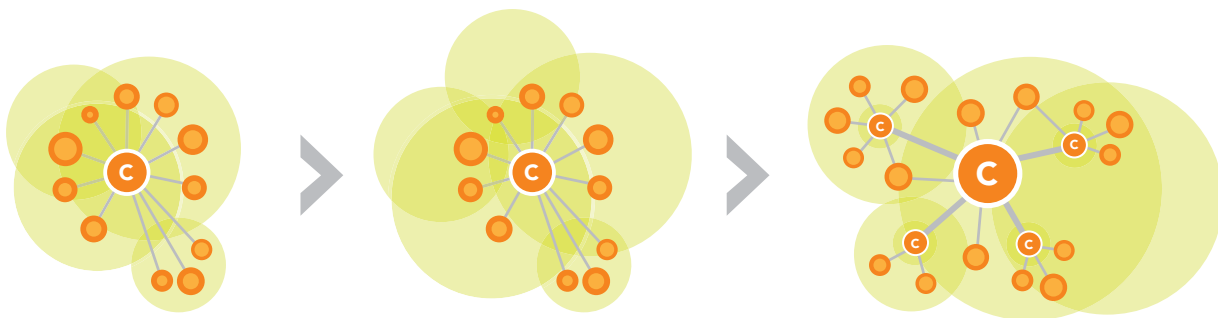
Scenario A Investment in Accelerated Implementation



Partners develop a focused strategic action plan and raise enough funds to complete priority actions.

Then linkages and commitments among partners become looser or potentially the partnership is reconfigured to focus on a new geography or set of priorities.

Scenario B Investment in Long-term Coordination and Implementation with Potential for Adaptive Management

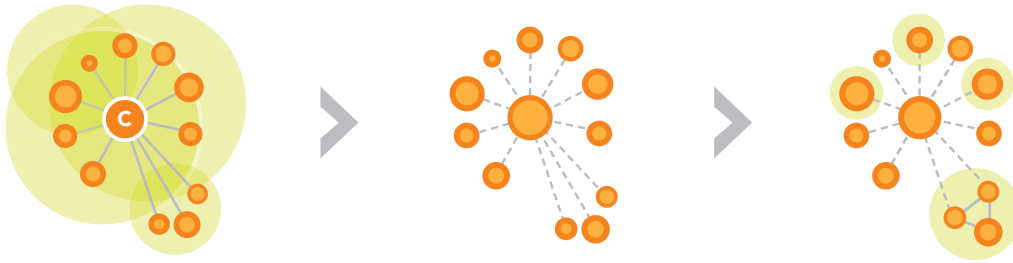


Partners create a long-term strategic action plan and secure adequate funding to support ongoing coordination and implementation of collaborative projects.

With multiple aligned funders, there is a greater chance that they will develop commitment for shared reporting, monitoring and adaptive management.

Scenario C

Investment or Incentives for Long-term Coordination with Risk that Implementation Funding is Not Secured

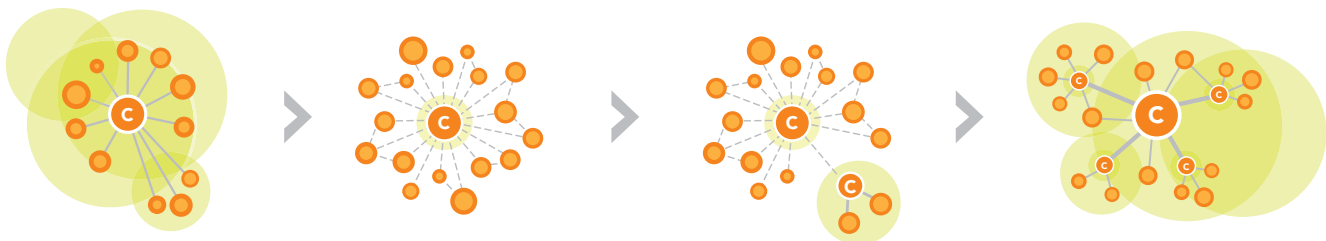


Partners create a long-term strategic action plan, but implementation funding is not secured for the partnership, only grants to individual projects.

The linkages and commitments among partners become looser. The plan may still be used for general guidance as partners find it useful, but there is no capacity to coordinate joint fundraising, project planning and reporting or to update the plan based on new information and learning.

Scenario D

Investment or Incentives for Long-term Coordination with Risk Mitigated by Investment in a Continued Learning Network

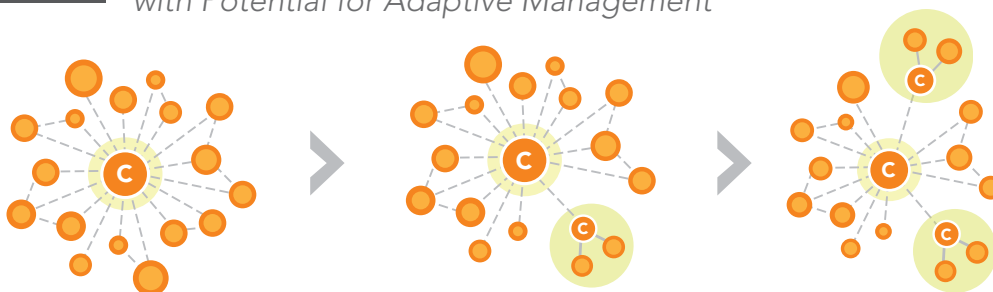


Partners create a long-term strategic action plan, but implementation funding is not secured.

A subsequent investment in the coordination of a learning network could sustain the partnership at a lower level of coordination, while building social capital for future collaboration as funding becomes available.

Scenario E

Investment in Learning Networks with Potential for Adaptive Management



Partners create a high-level strategic plan focused on key assumptions and learning objectives, for example centered around best practices and priority restoration strategies.

Targeted investments in convenings and communications create the potential for adaptive management and learning that could yield more robust, more impactful restoration projects even if the partnership does not tightly coordinate which projects are prioritized for implementation.

“We want to bring in significantly larger amounts of funding into the basin if we are going to deliver on the action plan. We need to steadily increase investment in the basin for our collective work. We’ve had some early successes, but we need to continue to grow our funding base and tap into new ones.”

Core Partner

“I take a lot of pride in our work. It’s a great process that we’ve built as a partnership. Everyone is a great professional and really knowledgeable. I’ve grown as a person from participating.”

Core Partner

In many if not all cases, partnerships have crafted their governance documents and strategic action plans assuming that the partnership will continue to function at a similar scale and level of coordination to complete the work needed to meet objectives. However, if significant funding is not secured for joint work, it is possible that the partners will each go their separate ways to implement restoration actions individually, in pairs or small groups based on project funding (See Figure 2, pages 24-25, Scenario C). There is a moderate to high risk that there will not be consistent capacity to keep the strategic action plan updated in a living document that captures lessons learned and adapts strategies to have the most impact.

Many partners in leadership or coordination positions have begun taking a close look at the future funding outlook, while many project managers have maintained a tight focus on their ambitious implementation schedule. Project managers have appreciated the value of the partnership and may not be questioning whether it will continue or what resources are needed to keep it going. Others who are asking questions have considered how might the focus and scale of their work be affected by their future funding outlook and to what extent will their investments in planning and governance pay off? Will partners come and go based on other funding opportunities? Will a subset of the partnership shift its focus to a different geography? These answers will be different for each partnership, and as this study finds, partner commitments will largely be driven by funding opportunities.

However, as many partners expressed, even if the partnership would dissolve in the absence of funding, over the six years of the Implementation grants or the two years of the Development grants, relationships have been strengthened, trust and learning have increased and lines of communication have opened considerably.

In the absence of sustained funding for implementation, this study suggests that a modest and well-targeted investment in maintaining the partnership as a learning network focused on convening, communications and learning has great potential to sustain the partnership at a lower level of commitment, while continuing to build social capital and a readiness for future collaboration as funding becomes available (See Figure 2, pages 24-25, Scenarios D and E). Central to this idea is the ability for partnerships to clearly define what types of learning and relationships would advance their long-term restoration vision and how targeted investments in convening and communications could yield a worthy return on investment (Brown and Salafsky 2004; Senge 2006; Wenger and others 2002)— an approach that would address the negative stigma that funders and partners often associate with loosely defined convenings with overly broad learning objectives.

A better understanding of the value propositions of different partnerships types can help partnerships and funders better target their investments in planning and set realistic expectations for short-term versus long-term benefits, which is a good transition to the second set of findings focused specifically on the FIP program.



GOLD BEACH, ROGUE BASIN PARTNERSHIP



How can OWEB improve and innovate the FIP program to support high-performing, resilient partnerships?

12 Streamline the FIP application process and grant administration wherever possible to boost efficiency, which directly affects partner commitment and performance.

With respect to the efficiency of the FIP program, partners consistently suggested opportunities to streamline requirements describing the application process and grant administration as cumbersome, repetitive, confusing and requiring more time and effort than expected at multiple points along the process.

“Once you get down to the project level proposals, there is a lot that OWEB asks of the partner coordinator in particular, and there are not a lot of streamlined processes or shortcuts to get the grants. My feedback — continue to find ways to make this more efficient.”

“Every OWEB grant we’ve ever gotten, we’ve been asked to do more with the same money — and sometimes even less time by the time they get the money out.”

Quotes from Core Partners

Efficiency is important both for maintaining partner commitment, and also for maximizing the leadership, energy and resources dedicated to maintaining high performance and impact (see *Finding 10 Efficiency*).

“You want talented people to stay around and see that things get done. When you saddle them with the nit-picky admin stuff, it is a morale killer. You don’t want to use their talent and depth of relationships and knowledge of an ecosystem and how it responds to outputs for so much admin. One of the highest priorities for OWEB is to improve on efficiency. Maybe there could be a partnership secretary at OWEB that could make the admin easier.”

Core Partner

Many partners acknowledged some process steps were legal requirements, and others emphasized that the size of the Implementation grants in particular warranted a rigorous application and review process.

However even considering these points, partners suggested opportunities for streamlining, for example minimizing redundancy in the application and reducing the number of awards for each Implementation FIP grant received instead of splitting out separate grants for technical assistance, monitoring, etc. Also, if at all possible, reducing the review time between when OWEB makes a funding decision and when the funds are available. As one partner described, a three-month lag time in getting I-FIP funds was a challenge due to the seasonality and sequencing of their restoration treatments. They were able to still make progress on their work plan, but then they had excess budget that they needed to carry over to the next biennium. They appreciated that OWEB allowed carry-over, but it created more administrative work to manage multiple budgets at the same time, each with their own reporting requirements.

“We’re managing six awards at once. That’s my main gripe that it should be easier to manage the award. Other than that, the amount of money dedicated is amazing. It does achieve our goal and have that larger impact.”

“The application is pretty much more work than the regular grant program with some increased flexibility and the ability to plan.”

Quotes from Core Partners

Another suggestion included more standardized email communications from OWEB so that partners receive regular updates and understand expectations for submitting proposals. Improving OWEB's website was also mentioned so that partners who do not have a history of working with OWEB can easily navigate and find information. In a few instances, partners described not being aware of deadlines or steps to submit proposals, for example obtaining a grantee login or not being able to easily review online applications with other partners, which caused a time crunch that affected other work or an unnecessarily delay in receiving funds. The inefficiencies related to these issues were more pronounced for people who had less experience working with OWEB and also for coordinators who had more administrative responsibilities in general.

Consistently, partners described the strengths of OWEB's leadership, organizational culture and staff as critical to helping them navigating these time-consuming and at times confusing requirements emphasizing strengths in listening, flexibility and collaborative problem-solving. However, as explained by multiple partners, more streamlining and efficiencies would go far to boost morale, capacity and impact. Partners acknowledged these near-term challenges related to efficiency and workload seem relatively small in the big picture, but their toll is significant.

“Long-term outcomes [for the FIP program] outweigh short-term challenges, but the short-term challenges are significant – especially when it comes to unfunded bodies of work that are essential to telling the conservation and restoration story (i.e. monitoring and outreach).”

Core Partner

13 Revisit the assumption that partnerships can accelerate impact without significant funding for outreach, education and monitoring needed to proactively build public support, improve practices and tell a meaningful, science-based story of progress.

The biggest gap discussed across partnerships was the lack of funding for outreach, education and also monitoring, which are all needed to proactively build public support, improve practices and tell a meaningful, science-based story of progress.

“It’s really important that we start with trust and relationships before trying to push projects forward. There are groups that talk, talk, talk, and they haven’t talked to the land owners. Then they are playing catch up, and the land owners are taken aback asking, what are you doing?”

Core Partner

Further, without monitoring, the potential for adaptive management is weakened with less information to feed-back into the cycle of learning and adaptation.

“Effectiveness monitoring would help us tell the story – all those numbers, costs and area treated – this is like gold, very valuable information. And if we really keep track, it’s something that can help us scale up this work.”

Core Partner

While some partners recognize that OWEB has legal restrictions on the types of activities they can fund, like education, and that there are negative stigmas associated with other activities based on history and political forces, such as data collection and experimentation, these represent a key gap that limit the performance and resiliency of partnerships and ultimately their ability to reach long-term restoration goals. Partners have been thinking creatively to find ways to fund some of these gaps (See Part 1 pages 22-24).

RECOMMENDATION

Consider flexibility within the FIP program to fund communications and monitoring – needed to proactively build public support, improve practices and tell a meaningful, science-based story of progress – or work with other funders to address these critical gaps.

14 Analyze the funding landscape and work with other funders to create alignment, particularly with respect to funding priorities, grant duration and reporting and monitoring requirements, that could be targeted to support a focused number of collaborative partnerships.

Based on findings from this report, one of the best ways to support the success of coordinated and collaborative partnerships is for OWEB to more fully analyze the funding landscape and build greater alignment with other funders to create realistic scenarios for sustaining a focused number of coordinated or collaborative partnerships over longer timeframes. A more targeted approach with commitment from other funders would warrant a higher investment in planning, monitoring and adaptive management with a greater chance that a partnership would be able to maintain the focus and commitment to see an increase in performance and impact from these initial investments (See Figure 2, pages 24-25, Scenarios B and C).

“With our monitoring approach, a three-year interval for data collection is currently funded with the I-FIP, but after that, there is no commitment to continue that monitoring. There is a big leap of faith – investment in a whole framework, approach and metrics – on the hope that after two times of measuring, someone else will pick it up. Otherwise, it is only an effort to report to OWEB. After the FIP funds go away, what is left of the partnership and the pieces that we put together?”

“It’s a big investment in a partnership that doesn’t have a clear future. It feels like we could use a consultant to look at that cost-benefit relationship and even bring their expertise to develop new funding sources so that people could use their time wisely – Is there something to build after this or should people start thinking about maximum use of their time?”

Quotes from Core Partners

Ironically, despite funders general enthusiasm for collective impact and collaboration among grantees, it can be quite challenging for funders to collaborate with each other to align their investments (Thompson 2014). Yet partners consistently describe OWEB’s culture of collaboration

and progress toward funder alignment. In one instance, partners described how they brought OWEB and another funder into conversation that led to increased coordination and aligned investments. More often, funders are in a position to see the larger funding landscape and network among their philanthropic peers to explore where interests overlap (Brown and others 2016).

RECOMMENDATION

Work with other funders to create alignment around funding priorities, grant duration and reporting and monitoring requirements to offer complementary partnership-focused investments.

15 Revisit the six-year limit on Implementation FIP grants and the requirement that applicants identify a full slate of ambitious projects for six years.

Partners recognized the value in OWEB’s decision to put a time limit on the Implementation FIP grants to push partners to be disciplined about how they would use the funds and also to create opportunities for other partnerships throughout the state. While all Implementation FIP recipients were exceedingly grateful, they also encouraged deeper thinking about the implications of a six-year timeframe.

Partners consistently questioned why the Implementation FIP grants were limited to six years when different lengths of time were needed to meet different types of objectives in different ecosystems. Some partners suggested that different types of implementation grants with different durations and types of funded activities could be more targeted, for example one designed to accelerate implementation in well-studied ecosystems using commonly accepted restoration practices and another funding opportunity designed to promote learning alongside implementation, such as in ecosystems not as well-understood or where innovative restoration approaches had the greatest potential for impact. Others suggested that partner-

“When we developed the I-FIP proposal, we asked for a lot. We needed to be ambitious, to stretch, to be competitive. What we identified as the steps were right, but we were too ambitious. Maybe we need a 4-biennium, 8-year process?”

Core Partner

ships should be able to apply for another Implementation FIP grant to extend the six-year timeframe even if there was a waiting period before they could apply again. While many partners recognized the need to put some kind of time limit on the Implementation FIP grants, it was unclear if a fixed six-year timeline was the best approach.

Many partnerships that received a Development FIP grant and planned to submit an Implementation FIP application spent considerable time speculating about how to best segment their larger strategic action plan into a six-year set of projects that could have the most impact. Some partners questioned whether this was the best approach since they were not debating the top priority projects for the first six years of an ambitious multi-decadal plan, but the top priority projects that could yield the greatest impact after six years of implementation. This results in a subtle shift in how priorities are framed that could leave some partners without funding to advance their part of the bigger picture due to the limitation that partners working within a geography and set of activities already included in an Implementation FIP grant are not eligible to apply for OWEB's open solicitation grant program. This subtle shift seems to give an advantage to proposals and partners that emphasize dramatic, short-term wins over a slower build up to long-term wins, which may disproportionately impact small organizations, such as watershed councils, that focus on a more modest neighbor-to-neighbor approach to restoration on private lands. Small watershed councils expressed concerns along these lines (*See Part 1 pages 39-41 for further discussion*).

In the experience of many partnerships, the tight focus on an ambitious implementation timeline over six years reduced capacity for the partnership to maintain connection to the strategic action plan, continue updating it based on learning and develop new project ideas for future funding opportunities. Project managers and partnership coordinators had to be disciplined to ramp up quickly, sustain focus to meet benchmarks and sequence stages of seasonal work to be ready to ramp down at the end of the grant period. Many partners had limited capacity to focus on continued planning, monitoring or adaptive management except

“Six years is a very short period of time speaking in terms of ecological changes. We’re taking on a huge challenge, and if we successfully get all our FIP money put to the ground and monitored, we will still be a long way from where we are going.”

Core Partner



“Six years seems long, but in an ecological sense, it is a blip. You can barely do site prep, planting and plant establishment on one reveg project in six years, let alone see any ecological outcomes from that work. Please remember the ecological outcomes we are working towards are many years to decades ahead of us.”

Core Partner

where some partners had research or monitoring responsibilities within their job descriptions, but even then, they admitted limited capacity to dedicate to the partnership without funding. In most contexts, partners recognized that sustained effort is required over a much longer timeframe, on the order of decades, to realize the ecological outcomes described in their strategic action plans.

“No one was talking about social science three years ago. Now we are. Being flexible is important. I realize it’s not easy for OWEB.”

Core Partner

A six-year focus on implementation also seemed to keep partnerships tightly focused on the projects initially proposed in the “project pipeline” to meet ambitious timelines, which could potentially inhibit opportunities for adaptive management and increased performance over a longer timeframe. Timelines proposed for the Implementation FIP grants were especially ambitious to maximize their chances with this highly competitive grant.



In several partnerships, the question was raised whether new project ideas could be developed that might better meet objectives in the strategic action plan. While there was flexibility to change project ideas already in the pipeline, most of this flexibility was exercised when an original project idea ended up not being feasible. In some cases, sudden landowner willingness created an opportunity to move forward with a proposal, and projects already in the pipeline were shuffled around in response to these timing considerations. However, despite this flexibility, many partners described that there was no time to slow down and reprioritize projects as long as the originally proposed projects were able to move forward with adjustments. Although six years is not long in terms of the time needed to implement restoration in these systems, as some partners expressed it is a fairly long time to focus on the same set of projects without an opportunity to revisit or reprioritize based on new information. Also, partners reflected on potential challenges if there were a newly proposed project and it ended up taking funding from one already in

“Sharing of funding always comes up. There were already pre-negotiations when we developed the I-FIP application, and then some partners wanted to change things so significantly that it became contentious in some of the meetings. It was going to change the stake that our organization had financially. If you have a strong enough partnership, those things can be pushed aside. Even if you are not benefiting as much as you hoped in this or that area, you are still benefiting overall. Funding for your organization is never number one, but it still becomes an issue.”

Core Partner

the pipeline. It would likely cause jostling for position and funding among partner organizations, which could disrupt the delicate balance of commitment and buy-in established through the Implementation FIP application process.

Lastly the suggestion was raised that perhaps there could be some kind of eligibility check-in two years prior to the end of the Implementation FIP grant where OWEB could assess the scale and level of work. Partnerships would appreciate OWEB’s guidance and feedback relative to future funding options so they could decide whether to wrap up the work cleanly and ramp down or whether there might be other funding opportunities to maintain an accelerated pace for another two years, six years or more.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Meet with partnerships two years before the end of their six-year grant or at the end of their two-year grant to assess progress and help identify resources and a roadmap forward that holds the greatest value proposition.
- 2 Consider adjusting the grant duration, offering a two-year grant after an Implementation FIP grant or awarding a second six-year grant after a waiting period.

16 Consider whether there is a more modest level of strategic planning and partnership support that would still provide value to partners if they could not secure implementation funding to sustain the idealized model of a coordinated or collaborative partnership.

As a result of the FIP program, more restoration partnerships have formalized throughout the state and developed strategic action plans and governance documents. Partnerships have taken seriously the strategic action plan guidance provided by OWEB, which is an eligibility requirement for the Implementation FIP grant, in an attempt to be as competitive as possible. The planning guidance, which integrates concepts from the Open Standards for Conservation Practice (Conservation Measures Partnership 2013) and collective impact literature (Kania and Kramer 2011), assumes that the partnership will continue to operate as a coordinated or collaborative partnership where partners are aligned around priorities and collecting monitoring data to learn from and adapt their strategies and actions over time. While this is a comprehensive and well-respected planning framework, it requires significant capacity and investment over long timeframes to use in practice (See Figure 2 , pages 24-25, Scenario B).

By design, OWEB has awarded more Development FIP grants, which emphasize strategic action planning, than Implementation FIP grants, which emphasize on-the-ground restoration projects, with the idea that more formalized partnerships in the state with clearly articulated shared priorities will attract more funding and accelerate restoration overall. OWEB's vision is to stimulate the development of many well-organized partnerships and provide some funding for implementation. Many partnerships have formalized as a result of the Development FIP grants, while others have formalized using other resources, in large part motivated by the opportunity to apply for and hopefully get an Implementation FIP grant.

Yet across the diversity of partnerships, the outlook for long-term sustained funding is not clear. Awarding a higher number of Development FIPs to develop plans for a coordinated or collaborative partnership without knowing whether there is adequate funding for implementation creates a moderate to high risk that the investment in planning and partnership building will not reach the potential originally envisioned (See Figure 2 Funding Scenario C). For partnerships that are not able to find sustained funding, there may be frustration and hard feelings among partners and even toward OWEB for substantial time spent in planning that may not directly be translated to action. Many partnerships that were awarded Implementation FIP grants are greatly appreciative of the large grants, but still have questions about how they will raise funds to sustain their momentum toward long-term goals.

“To take our partnership to the next level, some things would have to change — our ability to fundraise at a higher level, to share funds in a different way. An assumption I hear circulated around is that somehow capacity is built and it sustains itself. Capacity and work needs to be funded every day. When the funding stops, the work stops. None of this happens for free. This partnership has given us a lot of capacity to learn more and work together to solve different problems. It means we are likely to find more money. Our staff is so amazing, but if the funding is gone next year, then the staff are gone too.”

Core Partner

“We build these partnerships — don’t we want them to grow into something more over these 6 years? We’re working to engage new partners, all that stuff. We’re building the nucleus of something really valuable, with really limited capacity to build upon it. The pace that we go determines how we are involved in other things.”

Core Partner

These findings raise the question whether there is a more modest level of strategic planning and partnership support that would still provide value to partners even if they are not able to sustain funding to support the idealized model of a coordinated or collaborative partnership. For example, a more modest level of strategic planning might require partners reach agreement on high level strategic questions, such as what are the limiting factors for restoration or what types of restoration treatments are most likely to meet objectives, without taking the next step of prioritizing specific projects together.

RECOMMENDATION

Develop a more modest planning framework that would provide alignment and coordination at a high strategic level without requiring a higher level of commitment and funding to fully integrate project planning and reporting if the resources aren't there to sustain it.

Another suggestion is to make a modest investment in maintaining communications and learning, specifically for partnerships to operate as a learning network focused on specific learning objectives related to identifying strategic approaches or refining best practices for restoration. In some cases, the value proposition and impact would be maximized for a partnership to operate as a learning network over the long-term (See Figure 2 Funding Scenario E). In other cases, it may make sense for a partnership to operate as a learning network until they can raise the funds to operate as a more collaborative partnership (See Figure 2 Funding Scenario D).



“One of the most difficult things that we’re facing right now is we need to keep up the work, the communication, the dialog, the meetings, all of that needs to continue to keep developing where we are and where we are going. We’re making a tremendous amount of headway all positive and beneficial, thanks in large part to the FIP program, but all of that takes a great deal of effort, and it is expensive.”

Core Partner

RECOMMENDATION

Create funding opportunities and support to sustain partnerships as learning networks, especially in the absence of large-scale implementation funding.

17 Consider the added costs and complexity of inclusive collaborative partnerships when providing guidance about whether partnerships should strive for an inclusive or a more focused approach.

Inclusive collaborative partnerships are often idealized for bringing greater capacity and representation of diverse interests to tackle shared priorities and increase collective impact. Inclusive partnerships can take different forms along the continuum of partnership types from an inclusive learning network, where partners come together for learning, to an inclusive collaborative partnership, where partners are aligned and coordinated to advance shared priorities (See Figure 1, page 14 Partnership Continuum). More collaborative inclusive partnerships require much greater investment in coordination, communication and onboarding, which means it may be quite challenging to find adequate funding to sustain commitment. On the other hand, sometimes an inclusive partnership is able to access new and different

funding sources because of the diversity of partners and their funding relationships.

Efficiency is also a persistent challenge for inclusive collaborative partnerships since a robust and inclusive planning process requires layers of process to invite feedback and make decisions together. These process steps create potential barriers for new partners, which ironically can create a feeling of exclusion. Inclusive learning networks, which have much lower costs and risks, focus on convening partners and promoting communication and learning. Through inclusive learning networks, partners can develop and refine best practices, identify high level priorities and build social capital for future collaboration at the project level (See Figure 2 Scenario E). This approach to inclusive partnerships may yield a better return on investment if there are limited sources to sustain funding for an inclusive collaborative partnership at the scale required.

With this in mind, OWEB may want to consider their expectation that I-FIP partnerships should be inclusive, which is articulated in the FIP rule that organizations are not eligible to apply for OWEB’s open solicitation grants if they work in a geographic area and propose activities already covered by the scope of a funded Implementation FIP grant. One suggestion that perhaps would mitigate the challenges of expecting all partnerships to be inclusive of all organizations in their geography would be to allow organizations to apply for open solicitation grants, but to ask them to explain how their proposed project uniquely contributes or complements the work of the partnership and assign a rating or point system that would give a lower rating for duplication or lack of coordination.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Revisit expectations in the FIP rules that I-FIP partnerships should be inclusive.
- 2 Provide additional funding for coordination of inclusive partnerships.

18 Continue OWEB's much appreciated focus on listening, flexibility and collaborative problem-solving, but also realize that partnerships are cautious about sharing candid feedback and questioning FIP program assumptions, especially since OWEB is one of their most prominent funders.

Overall, partners enthusiastically praised OWEB's leadership, organizational culture and staff emphasizing listening, flexibility and collaborative problem-solving as critical to their success in the FIP program. Some partners affectionately described OWEB staff as a partner and colleague.

"OWEB is a partner as much as a funder."

"OWEB has been very helpful, flexible and truly acted as a partner through the whole process."

Quotes from Core Partners

Yet, for most partners, OWEB is one of their most prominent funders, and as such, they put considerable care and thought into how and when to raise questions and share feedback.

Overall, this study found that partners were cautious about sharing candid feedback about the FIP program and questioning core assumptions held by OWEB, especially when their comments might question OWEB's confidence in them as a high performing, resilient partnership. Partners seemed to hold back on several important topics, including assumptions about technical review, guidance for strategic action planning, expectations for monitoring and assumptions about funding to sustain their partnership.

Relative to technical review, some partnerships felt the process was overly cumbersome and repetitive. OWEB has worked with partnerships to customize the process to meet their needs for due diligence as a funder, while also providing value to partnerships by strengthening project proposals through technical feedback. Some partners struggled with how to provide feedback that the technical review process as structured is not the best vehicle to strengthen project proposals.

Relative to strategic action plan guidance used by Development FIP grantees, some partners struggled with OWEB's expectations of how broad and inclusive their

plan should be alongside their hopes of getting an Implementation FIP grant and their own questions about how to fund and sustain a larger effort over time. Partners did not necessarily want to raise concerns that they might not be able to sustain a large effort if their most prominent funder thought they could or should be able to.

Relative to expectations about monitoring, many partners questioned OWEB's assumptions about the capacity and expertise needed to take on responsibilities for long-term monitoring when they felt their responsibilities should stay focused on meeting the benchmarks for their ambitious implementation timelines. Some partners also referenced that historically watershed councils were discouraged from engaging in monitoring and especially research and so they questioned whether those expectations were now shifting and whether they even wanted to take on those responsibilities.

Finally, relative to assumptions about sustainability, partnerships did not want to question OWEB's optimism that they would be able to attract new funding after the end of an Implementation or Development FIP grant, yet they did have questions about where the funding would come from and what realistic options they could plan for. They did not want their success over six years to be discounted if the partnership did not continue to function in the same form or at the same scale after the end of the grant.

Findings throughout this study indicate there would be value in continuing to explore assumptions related to the technical review process, the level of strategic planning recommended, expectations for monitoring and realistic scenarios for sustaining funding. These discussions will likely continue to be challenging for funders to facilitate with grantees, and perhaps it would be more effective to convene partners and discuss expectations in broad terms without drilling down to the specific details of any one partnership.

RECOMMENDATION

Continue to support peer-to-peer learning among partnerships, like the FIP grantee gathering in March 2018, and opportunities to provide feedback to OWEB collectively in ways which takes the pressure off individual grantees, for example using a third-party facilitator who can help partners summarize and deliver feedback anonymously.

Conclusion

Overall, the partnerships were greatly appreciative to OWEB for commissioning this study and for the opportunity to learn from each other alongside OWEB as part of this innovative and much appreciated funding program.

As a result of increased communication among the partnerships and OWEB throughout this project, OWEB made two offerings in response to feedback. In direct response to feedback about the lack of capacity for financial planning from Part 1 of this report, OWEB made \$15,000 available to each of the eight Development FIPs to develop a financial plan consistent with their Strategic Action Plan, including identification of funding sources and development of fundraising strategies.

Secondly, in response to an interest among the FIP partnerships to learn from each other directly, OWEB organized a gathering in March 2018 inviting representatives from the 14 partnerships described in this report plus the new cohort of partnerships that were awarded a Development FIP in the second round of funding. From the mix of presentations and discussion sessions, the question of how to sustain a partnership emerged as an important topic and one that closely relates to the findings and initial recommendations proposed here. This report represents a step along that path of exploring and addressing this question of how to support resilient partnerships for sustained performance and impact with the hope that it will continue to spark dialog among funders and partners to get to the next level.

“A heartfelt thank you for the support OWEB has given us. And I appreciate this study. It’s a good way for the funding organizations to understand what’s going on without a bunch of bias or perceived bias. I hope some of my comments have been helpful in that way.”

“I enjoy the opportunity to have that cross-pollination with the other partnerships, lessons learned and all that. Continuing to come together would be well-received to keep from re-inventing the wheel.”

“I’m really grateful and thankful that our partnership has shown sustained success and growth — new partners and additional investment, national and even international attention. It is helping to transform how society is thinking about the bigger problem and, I think, cultivating the ground for a much larger increase in the pace, scale and quality of restoration. We are on the cusp of an orbital leap of what we are able to accomplish because of the success of this project.”

Quotes from Core Partners

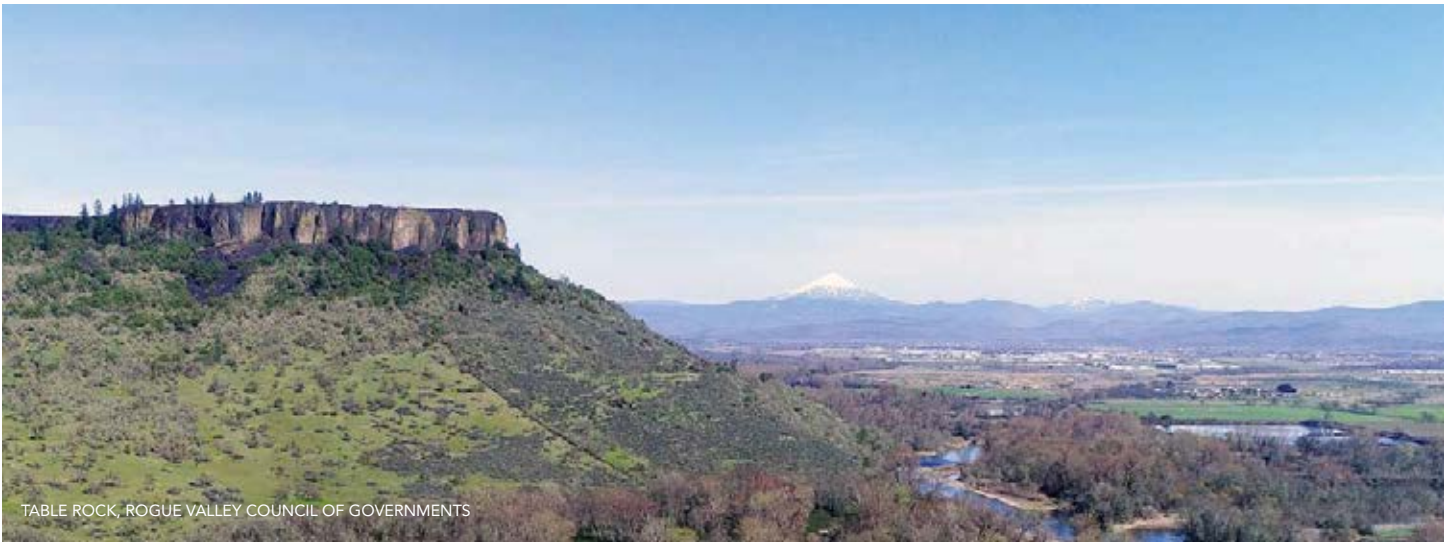


TABLE ROCK, ROGUE VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Summary of Recommendations to Evolve the FIP Program

Efficiencies

- 1 Increase efficiencies** in the application process and grant administration wherever possible
 - Reduce redundancies in the application process
 - Reduce the number of awards for each I-FIP grant
 - Reduce the wait time between funding decisions and when funding is available
 - Consider hiring an administrative support person at OWEB that could centrally take on some of the routine tasks currently handled by partnership coordinators
 - Standardize email communications, including notifications and updates related to the FIP grant administration so that all grantees are aware of deadlines and requirements for proposal submission, management of sub-awards, etc.
 - Improve the website and online application portal, especially considering first time users

Capacity Building

- 1 Create training and mentoring opportunities** for facilitation, team building, leadership and how to manage competition.
- 2 Provide more tools and leadership training** on group dynamics and governance could so partnerships can “right-size” their governance documents, including defining roles, responsibilities and decision-making rules.
- 3 Continue exploring creative approaches** to support respectful tribal engagement and leadership.

Funding

- 1 Consider flexibility within the FIP program** to fund communications and monitoring – needed to proactively build public support, improve practices and tell a meaningful, science-based story of progress – or work with other funders to address these critical gaps.
- 2 Work with other funders** to align opportunities to support partnerships, particularly with respect to funding priorities, grant duration and reporting and monitoring requirements.
- 3 Work with other funders** to assess the funding landscape and get a sense for how many coordinated or collaborative partnerships could be sustained throughout the state to fully implement an adaptive management approach to restoration as outlined in the strategic action planning guidance.



Planning Guidance and Program Rules

1 Consider adjusting the duration of I-FIP grants and the requirement that applicants identify a full slate of ambitious projects for six years.

- Consider alternatives to the six-year Implementation FIP grant to provide opportunities for accelerated implementation and innovation in a variety of ecosystems requiring different time periods and different types of activities to be successful.
- Meet with I-FIP partnerships two years before the end of their six-year grant to assess progress and the funding landscape to continue operating as a partnership.
- Consider the possibility of offering a two-year grant to conclude an I-FIP or awarding a second six-year I-FIP after a waiting period.

“OWEB could be a compelling convener for an annual conference to talk about what works and doesn’t work among the partnerships. Maybe even twice a year? To talk about all of those things that partnerships typically need at some point, latch onto that general list of needs and focus on how to solve the puzzles.”

Core Partner

2 Adjust expectations for the type of partnership and level of planning that is promoted through the Development and Implementation FIP grants.

- Develop a more modest planning framework that would provide alignment and coordination at a high strategic level without requiring a higher level of commitment and funding to fully integrate project planning and reporting if the resources aren’t there to sustain it.
- Create funding opportunities and support to sustain partnerships as learning networks, especially in the absence of large-scale implementation funding.
 - Provide capacity for a coordinator to convene partners and facilitate communication and learning around clearly defined strategic issues.
 - Provide training to coordinators to develop effective learning networks and tell the story of their impact.

3 Revisit expectations in the FIP rules that I-FIP partnerships should be inclusive.

4 Provide additional funding for coordination of inclusive partnerships.

Learning and Feedback

1 Continue to support peer-to-peer learning among partnerships, like the FIP grantee gathering in March 2018, and opportunities to provide feedback to OWEB collectively in ways which takes the pressure off individual grantees, for example using a third-party facilitator who can help partners summarize and deliver feedback anonymously.

References

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Appendix – Partnership Survey

Thank you for taking the time to share your reflections and feedback! Even the most successful partnerships face common challenges, such as recruiting key partners and staff turnover. Performance is dynamic, with normal ups and downs expected. This study does not attempt to categorize partnership performance, but collect insights from your experience to understand what partnerships need to be resilient and how OWEB’s Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Program can support your success.

If you are short on time, you can complete the required questions in 8-10 minutes. If you have more time, please add your comments, suggestions and examples to promote learning and sharing.

This survey is confidential. At the end, we ask for your name to keep track of who completed the survey. However, your name will not be connected in any way with your answers in the presentation of results. The summarized survey results for your partnership will be shared with you; however, they will not be shared with OWEB. OWEB will only see results that are generalized across all FIP partnerships, and FIP partnerships will have the chance to review preliminary findings.

Questions?

Jennifer Arnold jennifer@reciprocityconsulting.com

PARTNERSHIP

1 To what extent do you feel your partnership is actively changing and evolving or stable and established?

Actively changing and evolving 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Stable and established

2 To what extent are you satisfied with your partnership’s process to develop your strategic action plan?

Not satisfied at all 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Extremely satisfied

★ *Any comments or reflections on the structure, scope or content of your strategic action plan? Any advice for groups just starting their plan?*

CORE PARTNERS

3 To what extent do you think the right people, organizations, and stakeholders are actively involved in the partnership, referring to the core partners that will help achieve your goals?

Lacking core partners or not active

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

All core partners involved, active

★ Are there specific people or organizations you would like to see more involved? If yes, please explain what you hope they would bring to the partnership and your thoughts about why they are not as involved as you would like.

★ Any comments or suggestions for recruiting core partners? Any advice to share with other groups?

COMMUNICATION

4 To what extent are you satisfied with the frequency and quality of communication among core partners for planning and coordination?

Not satisfied at all

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

Extremely satisfied

5 To what extent are you satisfied with how the partnership communicates with external stakeholders?

Not satisfied at all

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

Extremely satisfied

6 To what extent do you think core partners hold themselves and each other accountable to follow through on their commitments?

Significant gaps in follow-through and accountability

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

Exceptional in follow-through and accountability

★ Any comments or suggestions to improve follow-through and accountability? Advice that could benefit other groups?

GOVERNANCE

7 To what extent are you satisfied with the way that core partners work together to make decisions, for example deciding on the scope for the FIP grant, prioritizing grant funds, or assigning project leads?

Not satisfied at all 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Extremely satisfied

8 To what extent do you think your governance documents, such as MOU, accurately reflect how partners work together and are useful in supporting your success? If you feel your governance documents are a good start, but would benefit from further development, please note that in the comments below.

Not accurate, useful 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Highly accurate, very not useful

★ *Any comments or suggestions about the usefulness of governance documents or how they can be improved to support your success?*

VALUE OF PARTNERSHIP

9 To what extent do you feel the benefits of participating in the partnership are greater than the costs?

Costs far greater than benefits 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Benefits far greater than costs

★ *Please tell us about the costs and benefits that matter most to you and your organization.*

CHALLENGES & ADAPTATION

10 To what extent has the partnership faced external challenges that limited what you could achieve, such as changes in laws, policies, land ownership, elected officials, funding, etc.

Few, minimal changes 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Continual, extreme challenges

11 To what extent has the partnership responded well given these limitations?

Struggled to respond 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Responded extremely well

★ Please share an example of an external challenge faced and how the partnership responded.

SUCCESS

12 To what extent do you feel the partnership has made good progress developing a strategic action plan and the capacity to implement it?

Limited progress with action plan and capacity 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Exceptional progress with action plan and capacity

★ Please share your reflections on what have been the key drivers of your success or lack thereof?

13 To what extent do you feel public awareness and support are important to achieving your restoration goals?

Not at all important 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Extremely important

14 To what extent do you feel the public is aware and supportive of the value of the partnership’s work? If the partnership has not yet conducted the public outreach desired, please note in the comments below.

Public not aware or supportive 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Public very much aware and supportive

★ Any comments about your success with public outreach or the outreach your partnership plans to do in the future? Suggestions for how OWEB resources could help you achieve your public outreach goals? Advice for other groups?

15 To what extent were you satisfied with the FIP application and selection process?

Not at all satisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Extremely satisfied

★ Any comments or suggestions to improve the FIP application and selection process in the future?

16 To what extent have you been satisfied with the frequency and quality of communication with OWEB staff?

Not at all satisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Extremely satisfied

★ Any comments or suggestions for OWEB to improve communication?

17 To what extent are you satisfied with the FIP program as an approach to support resilient partnerships and implement ecological restoration?

Not at all satisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Extremely satisfied

★ Please share any specific feedback for how OWEB can better structure the FIP program and associated funding to support your partnership's success.



ECO LOGICAL RESEARCH



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Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Materials

for

**October 16-17, 2018
Board Meeting**

Gold Beach, Oregon



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Meeting Agenda
October 16-17, 2018

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Curry Public Library
Learning Center
94341 3rd St.
Gold Beach, OR 97444
Directions: <https://goo.gl/maps/dLkGZx6Ekkt>

Business Meeting – 8:00 a.m.

For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. The board may also elect to take an item out of order in certain circumstances. During the public comment periods (Agenda Items D, F, K, L, and N), 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 3 to 5 minutes.*** Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after October 9, 2018 will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

A. Board Member Comments (8:05 a.m.)

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 (8:45 a.m.)

The minutes of the June 27, 2018 meeting in Cascade Locks will be presented for approval. *Action item.*

C. Board Subcommittee Updates (8:50 a.m.)

Representatives from board subcommittees (Monitoring, Focused Investments, and Operating Capacity) will provide updates on subcommittee topics to the full board. *Information item.*

D. Public Comment (9:10 a.m.)

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

E. Council Capacity Grants Guidance (9:25 a.m.)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff will request board action on revisions to OWEB's Council Capacity Grants guidance document. *Action item.*

F. Spring 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering (10:10 a.m.)

NOTE: Public Comment specific for this agenda item at approximately 11:20 a.m.

Introduction

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and OWEB Regional Program Representatives will provide background information on the Spring 2018 Open Solicitation grant offering.

Public Comment [approximately 11:20 a.m.]

This time is reserved for public comment on pending restoration, technical assistance, and stakeholder engagement 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. Any written comments pertaining to pending grant proposals must be received by agency staff by the **October 9, 2018 deadline** in order to be provided to the board in advance of the meeting. ***The board encourages speakers to limit comments to 3 to 5 minutes.***

Board Consideration of Pending Open Solicitation Grant Applications

The board will consider grant applications submitted through the Spring 2018 Open Solicitation grant offering. Proposals, supporting materials, and funding recommendations will be discussed and acted on by the Board. *Action item.*

G. Board Discussion with Oregon Water Resource Department (1:30 p.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Oregon Water Resources Department Field Services Division Administrator Ivan Gall will brief the board on topics including water measurement, water leasing, and the Allocation of Conserved Water Statute. *Information item.*

H. Strategic Plan Update (2:15 p.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will report to the board on progress made on strategic plan implementation. *Information Item.*

I. Secure, Safe, and Resilient Water Future for Oregon (3:00 p.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis will update the board on the Governor's initiative to ensure resiliency in water systems across the state. *Information item.*

Tour – 3:45 p.m.

The OWEB Board and staff will participate in a field tour of planned restoration work in the Rogue River estuary. Anyone is welcome to join the tour, but please be prepared to provide your own transportation and be prepared for inclement weather.

Informal Reception – 5:30 p.m. - 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:

Curry Public Library

Learning Center

94341 3rd St.

Gold Beach, OR 97444

Directions: <https://goo.gl/maps/dLkGZx6Ekkt>

Wednesday, October 17, 2018**Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.**

For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. The board may also elect to take an item out of order in certain circumstances. During the public comment periods (Agenda Items D, F, K, L, and N), 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 3 to 5 minutes.*** Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after October 9, 2018 will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

J. 2019-2021 Spending Plan (8:00 a.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will lead the board through initial discussions around developing the 2019-2021 Spending Plan. *Information item.*

K. Public Comment (8:45 a.m.)

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

L. Land Acquisitions (9:00 a.m.)

NOTE: Public Comment specific for this agenda item at approximately 8:55 a.m.

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will bring before the board a request to transfer ownership of two parcels of land in Yamhill County that were acquired through past Land Acquisition grant awards. In addition, the board will consider an extension of the grant agreement associated with the Botts Marsh acquisition project. *Action item.*

M. Tide Gate Programs Update (10:15 a.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will update the board on the Tide Gate Partnership, and Deputy Director Renee Davis and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho will discuss with the board next steps based on findings and recommendations from a recent literature review of tide gate restoration projects by Oregon State University. *Information item.*

N. Conservation Partnership Funding Request (10:55 a.m.)

NOTE: Public Comment specific for this agenda item at approximately 10:55 a.m.

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff will brief the board on the Conservation Partnership's 2017-2019 work, and request funding for the second year of their partnership support grant. *Action item.*

O. Governor's Priorities (11:25 a.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will request the board provide Governor's Priority funding for post-fire technical assistance. *Action item.*

P. Director's Update (11:40 a.m.)

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

Q. Other Business (12:20 p.m.)

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

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

General Business

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

Action on Grant Awards

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

Public Testimony

The board encourages public comment on any agenda item.

General public comment periods will be held on *Tuesday, October 16 at 9:10 a.m., and Wednesday, October 17 at 8:45 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 3 to 5 minutes.* Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after *October 9, 2018* will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

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 or send an e-mail to darika.barnes@oregon.gov. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise Darika Barnes 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*
Molly Kile, *Environmental Quality Commission*
Bruce Buckmaster, *Fish and Wildlife Commission*
Vacant, *Board of Forestry*
Meg Reeves, *Water Resources Commission*
Jason Robison, *Public (tribal)*
Gary Marshall, *Public*
Will Neuhauser, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Randy Labbe, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Jan Lee, *Public*
Liza Jane McAlister, *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*
Paul Henson, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Contact Information

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Salem, Oregon 97301-1290
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OWEB Executive Director – Meta Loftsgaarden

meta.loftsgaarden@oregon.gov

OWEB Assistant to Executive Director and Board – Darika Barnes

darika.barnes@oregon.gov

503-986-0181

2018 Board Meeting Schedule

January 30-31, in Florence
April 24-25, in Frenchglen
June 26-27, in Stevenson, WA and Cascade Locks
October 16-17, in Gold Beach

2019 Board Meeting Schedule

January 15-16, in Cannon Beach
April 16-17, location TBD
July 16-17, in Klamath Falls
October 15-16, in Condon

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

www.oregon.gov/OWEB.



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board 2018 Strategic Plan, At A Glance

Mission

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

About OWEB

OWEB has funded more than 8,700 grants since 1999, with which Oregonians have restored more than 5,100 miles of streams and have made more than 6,100 miles of habitat accessible for fish. The grants have helped landowners improve more than 1,135,000 upland habitat acres and restore, improve, or create more than 51,000 wetland or estuarine habitat acres. The majority of the funds invested go directly to on-the-ground improvements of land and water such as native plantings, dam removals, irrigation efficiencies, streams and rivers made accessible to fish, and land protected for future generations.

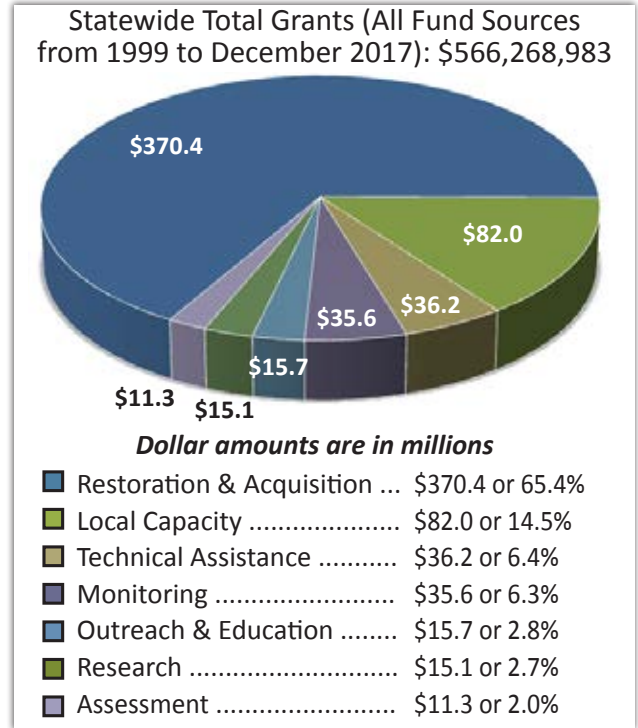
On behalf of the board members and staff of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), we invite you to review our 2018-2028 strategic plan. Based on a year and a half of conversations with partners and grantees, this plan celebrates all we have accomplished together over the last twenty years and sets a course for the next ten.

OWEB, our partners, and our grantees have much to celebrate. With over \$550 million in investments from Lottery, Salmon License Plates, federal and other funds, our grantees have restored 5,100 miles of streams, and improved habitat on over 1.1 million acres in the watersheds above those streams. Coupled with the restoration or creation of 51,000 acres of wetlands and estuaries, these gains support clean water and habitat for Oregonians and the fish and wildlife species that call this state home.

Our current investment portfolio – ranging from our flagship Open Solicitation grants to our newly established Organizational Collaboration grants – provides the foundation to improve the health of our watersheds by investing in people in our local communities. OWEB grants support local community partners to work with farmers, ranchers, forestland owners, and local contractors to provide clean water for Oregonians and healthy habitat for our fish and wildlife.

Our new plan builds on that strong granting foundation. As we look forward to the next ten years, we will focus our efforts, and current and future grant offerings to address the strategic priorities on the following page.

Over the past year of conversations, we have learned many of you share these same priorities, and we hope you will join us in implementing them. As we identify specific actions and measures to track our plan, we will share our progress with you. We look forward to working with you to improve the health of Oregon’s watersheds, and the opportunity to celebrate our successes over the next ten years.



Priorities & Strategies

With extensive input from our stakeholders, OWEB has designed a strategic plan to provide direction for the agency and its investments over the next 10 years.

Priority 1

Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds

Strategies

- Develop and implement broad awareness campaigns and highlight personal stories to tell the economic, restoration and community successes of watershed investments
- Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches

Priority 2

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

Strategies

- Listen, Learn and Gather Information about diverse populations
- Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table
- Develop funding strategies with a lens toward diversity, equity, and inclusion

Priority 3

Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

Strategies

- Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB's past capacity funding
- Champion best approaches to build organizational, community, and partnership capacity
- Continue to catalyze and increase state/federal agency participation in strategic partnerships

Priority 4

Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio

Strategies

- Increase coordination of public restoration investments and develop funding vision
- Seek alignment of common investment areas with private foundations
- Explore creative funding opportunities/partnerships with the private sector
- Partner to design strategies for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources

Priority 5

The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health

Strategies

- Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
- Strengthen engagement with a broad base of landowners
- Enhance the work of partners to increase working lands projects on farm, ranch and forestlands
- Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands
- Develop engagement strategies for owners/managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations

Priority 6

Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

Strategies

- Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts
- Invest in monitoring over the long term
- Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring
- Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners
- Define monitoring priorities
- Develop and promote a monitoring framework

Priority 7

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

Strategies

- Invest in landscape restoration over the long-term
- Develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economies
- Traditional conservation incentives may hinder participation; while at the same time, new, untested incentives may be developed to increase conservation work across Oregon. In addition, effectively conserving and restoring watersheds requires a thorough understanding of how economics and restoration/conservation actions intersect.
- Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB's mission





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!**

OWEB 2017-19 Spending Plan for the October 2018 Board Meeting

| | OWEB SPENDING PLAN | Oct 2018 additions | Spending Plan as of Oct 2018 | TOTAL Board Awards To-Date | Remaining Spending Plan after To-Date Awards | Oct 2018 Proposed Awards | Remaining Spending Plan after Oct 2018 awards |
|----|--|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| 1 | Open Solicitation: | | | | | | |
| 2 | Restoration (includes USFW Coastal Wetlands) | | 33.000 | 17.060 | 15.940 | 7.972 | 7.968 |
| 3 | Technical Assistance | | | | | | |
| 4 | Restoration TA | | 4.000 | 1.844 | 2.156 | 0.792 | 1.364 |
| 5 | CREP TA (includes NRCS & ODF funds) | | 1.435 | 1.435 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 6 | Stakeholder Engagement | | 0.700 | 0.169 | 0.531 | 0.463 | 0.068 |
| 7 | Monitoring grants | | 3.100 | 1.784 | 1.316 | | 1.316 |
| 8 | Land and Water Acquisition | | | | | | |
| 9 | Acquisition (includes USFW Coastal Wetlands) | | 9.900 | 6.630 | 3.270 | | 3.270 |
| 10 | Acquisition Technical Assistance | | 0.600 | 0.150 | 0.450 | | 0.450 |
| 11 | Weed Grants | | 3.000 | 3.000 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 12 | Small Grants | | 3.150 | 3.150 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 13 | Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring | | 1.587 | 0.556 | 1.031 | | 1.031 |
| 14 | TOTAL | 0.000 | 60.472 | 35.778 | 24.694 | 9.227 | 15.467 |
| 15 | % of assumed Total Budget | | 62.44% | | | | |
| 16 | Focused Investments: | | | | | | |
| 17 | Deschutes | | 4.000 | 4.000 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 18 | Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat | | 2.445 | 2.445 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 19 | Harney Basin Wetlands | | 1.970 | 1.970 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 20 | Sage Grouse | | 2.355 | 2.355 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 21 | Ashland Forest All-Lands | | 2.340 | 2.340 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 22 | Upper Grande Ronde | | 2.417 | 2.417 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 23 | Development FIPs | | 1.150 | 0.572 | 0.578 | | 0.578 |
| 24 | FI Effectiveness Monitoring | | 0.750 | 0.750 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 25 | TOTAL | 0.000 | 17.427 | 16.849 | 0.578 | 0.000 | 0.578 |
| 26 | % of assumed Total Budget | | 17.99% | | | | |
| 27 | Operating Capacity: | | | | | | |
| 28 | Capacity grants (WC/SWCD) incl. NRCS+LCWC | | 14.598 | 14.598 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 29 | Statewide org partnership support | 0.050 | 0.500 | 0.450 | 0.050 | 0.050 | 0.000 |
| 30 | Organizational Collaborative Grants | | 0.400 | 0.400 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 31 | TOTAL | 0.050 | 15.498 | 15.448 | 0.050 | 0.050 | 0.000 |
| 32 | % of assumed Total Budget | | 16.00% | | | | |
| 33 | Other: | | | | | | |
| 34 | CREP | | 0.750 | 0.750 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 35 | Governor's Priorities | | 1.000 | 0.941 | 0.059 | 0.060 | -0.001 |
| 36 | Strategic Implementation Areas | | 1.200 | 1.200 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 37 | Strategic Plan Implementation Grants | | 0.500 | 0.500 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 38 | TOTAL | 0.000 | 3.450 | 3.391 | 0.059 | 0.060 | -0.001 |
| 39 | % of assumed Total Budget | | 3.56% | | | | |
| 40 | TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan | 0.050 | 96.847 | 71.466 | 25.381 | 9.337 | 16.044 |
| 41 | OTHER DISTRIBUTED FUNDS IN ADDITION TO SPENDING PLAN DISTRIBUTION | | | | | | |
| 42 | Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - PCSRF | | 10.450 | 10.450 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 43 | Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership | | 0.309 | 0.309 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 44 | Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF | | 0.500 | 0.500 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 45 | PSMFC-IMW | | 0.729 | 0.729 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 46 | PSMFC-Coho Habitat Tools | | 0.166 | 0.166 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 52 | ODOT | | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 47 | TOTAL | 0.000 | 12.154 | 12.154 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 48 | TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Distributed Funds | 0.050 | 109.001 | 83.620 | 25.381 | 9.337 | 16.044 |

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

June 27, 2018 Board Meeting

Port of Cascade Locks, Marine Park Pavilion
395 SW Portage Rd.
Cascade Locks, OR 97014

MINUTES: Some agenda items are discussed out of order.

(Audio time stamps reference recording at: <https://youtu.be/pxz3OuoHmpc>).

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT

Alvarado, Ron
Buckmaster, Bruce
Furfey, Rosemary
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Lee, Jan
Masterson, Laura
McAlister, Liza Jane
Neuhauser, Will
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason
Stangl, Kathy

OWEB STAFF PRESENT

Barnes, Darika
Ciannella, Greg
Fetcho, Ken
Gunville, Katy
Hartstein, Eric
Hulst, Miriam
Loftsgaarden, Meta
McCarthy, Jillian
Redon, Liz
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

OTHERS PRESENT

Arnold, Jennifer
Ault, Sam
Beamer, Kelley
Coordes, Regan
Houston, Ryan
Klock, Clair
Morford, Shawn
Patty, Steve
Swanson, Kaola
Thieman, Cindy
Warren, Robert
Wittekind, Linnea

ABSENT

Brandt, Stephen
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Marshall, Gary

VACANT

Environmental Quality Comm.
Board of Forestry

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Co-Chair Randy Labbe.

A. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:00:20)

Board members provided updates on issues and activities related to their respective geographic regions and/or from the state and federal natural resource agencies they represent.

B. Review and Approval of Minutes (Audio = 0:30:00)

The minutes of the April 24-25, 2018 meeting in Frenchglen were presented to the board for approval.

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board approve the minutes from the April 24-25, 2018 meeting in Frenchglen. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 0:30:15)

C. Board Subcommittee Updates (Audio = 0:30:40)

Representatives from the Monitoring, Open Solicitation, Focused Investments, and Operating Capacity subcommittees provided updates to the full board on current subcommittee topics and activities.

D. Public Comment (Audio = 0:41:12)

The board was addressed by Shawn Morford, representing the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils and the Oregon Conservation Partnership. Morford provided an update to the board on the activities of her organization and the Partnership, including a brief report on the 2018 CONNECT Conference and plans for next year's conference in 2019.

E. OWEB Strategic Plan – Adoption and Implementation Grants (Audio = 0:45:20)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Principal Consultant Steve Patty with Dialogues in Action presented OWEB's new strategic plan for board approval. Director Loftsgaarden also requested the board include a new line in its spending plan to implement components of the strategic plan, and approve funds from the Governor's Priority line item in the spending plan to ensure a secure and resilient water future for all Oregonians.

Co-Chair Will Neuhauser moved the board approve the 2018 OWEB Strategic Plan as shown in the attachments. The motion was seconded by Meg Reeves. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:09:55)

Meg Reeves moved the board add a "Strategic Plan Implementation" line item to the 2017-2019 spending plan totaling \$500,000, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of June 27, 2018. The motion was seconded by Jan Lee. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:04:55)

Co-Chair Will Neuhauser moved the board approve \$65,450 from the Governor's Priority line item in the 2017-2019 spending plan to support the Governor's work to ensure a secure and resilient water future for all Oregonians, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of June 27, 2018. The motion was seconded by Meg Reeves. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:06:15)

G. Executive Director's Update (Audio = 2:07:30)

G-1: Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Co-Chair Will Neuhauser updated the board on the rulemaking activities of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.

G-2: Jason Robison provided the board with an update on the multi-state trip to Washington D.C. to meet with federal agencies and Oregon delegations to discuss the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund and the Farm Bill.

F. Technical Assistance Grants – Administrative Rules (Audio = 2:45:00)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein presented administrative rules for the technical assistance grants for board consideration and approval.

Jason Robison moved the board approve the technical assistance grant administrative rules as amended in Attachment C to the Technical Assistance Grants Administrative

Rules staff report with an amendment to add the words, “or the Director” after “by the Board” in OAR 695-030-0085 (1) The motion was seconded by Co-Chair Randy Labbe. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:08:10)

I. 2017-2019 Council Capacity Awards – Lower Columbia Watershed Council (Audio = 3:09:40)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff came before the board to request a second year of funding for the Lower Columbia Watershed Council’s 2017-2019 Council Capacity grant, including an additional \$3,500 to pay for a consulting report to share with other councils the lessons learned from their new, unique approach.

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board award \$50,847.50 of Council Capacity grant funds to the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council for the remainder of the 2017-2019 biennium in grant agreement #218-002. The motion was seconded by Laura Masterson. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:22:00)

J. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) – Upper Grande Ronde Request (Audio = 3:22:45)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams requested the board carryforward funds associated with the Upper Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership’s 2015-2017 Implementation FIP award, specifically for the Hall Ranch Restoration project.

Will Neuhauser moved the board carry forward \$339,887 from grant #216-8205-12639 to the 2017-2019 biennium for the Hall Ranch Restoration project. The motion was seconded by Meg Reeves. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:29:10)

H. 2017-2019 Spending Plan Additions (Audio = 3:30:15)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden, Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy, Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff, and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho requested the board approve receipt of funds from the following programs:

- \$1,000,000 from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries’ Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund;
- \$1,000,000 from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program;
- \$60,000 from Natural Resources Conservation Service and Oregon Department of Forestry for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program; and
- \$291,000 from Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission funding for monitoring efforts in the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed.

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board approve receipt and distribution of the Federal Fiscal Year 2018 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund grant in the identified categories of OWEB’s 2017-2019 Spending Plan as outlined in the 2017-2019 Spending Plan Update staff report. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:50:45)

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board approve receipt of funding as noted in Table I of the 2017-2019 Spending Plan Update staff report, as amended for up to \$60,000, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds through the appropriate agreements, with award dates listed in Table I. The motion was seconded by Meg Reeves. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:52:30)

K. Land Acquisition Grant Program – 2017 Portfolio Monitoring and Rulemaking (Audio = 3:54:45)

K-1. Grant Program Manager Eric Williams presented a summary of 2017 Land Acquisition portfolio monitoring and consideration for future monitoring. (Audio = 3:55:10)

K-2. Grant Program Manager Eric Williams requested the board authorize rulemaking for Land Acquisition grants. (Audio = 4:14:55)

Co-Chair Will Neuhauser moved the board authorize rulemaking for the OWEB Land Acquisition grants. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 4:16:05)

L. Public Comment (Audio = 4:16:40)

Kaola Swanson from Pacific Forest Trust (PFT) addressed the board to introduce herself as a new member of the PFT team based in Portland, and to thank the board for their support of the Mountcrest Forest Project.

Kelley Beamer, Executive Director from the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), also came before the board to provide an update on the activities of land trust community. She announced that COLT will be starting their next strategic plan in January with the goal of reaching one million Oregonians. She invited the board to join COLT on tour of several different conservation properties throughout the summer to meet landowners and hear their stories. She discussed how the Conservation Partnership activated their networks to solicit opinion letters that were published around the state to endorse the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund program. Beamer also shared that the Conservation Partnership reserved the lobby of the Oregon Capitol Building on February 22nd, 2019, to engage the public and legislators for the 20th anniversary of Measure 66 and help share the story of conservation investments.

M. OWEB Agency Request Budget (Audio = 4:25:45)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden requested the board's approval of budget proposals that will be included in OWEB's Agency Request Budget to the Governor for the 2019-2021 biennium.

Co-Chair Will Neuhauser moved the board approve the budget proposals included in Attachment B of the 2019-2021 Agency Request Budget staff report for inclusion in OWEB's 2019-2021 Agency Request Budget, as amended with referrals to the strategic plan. The motion was seconded by Meg Reeves. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 5:05:40)

N. FIP Update – Partnership Learning Project Phase II (Audio = 5:06:20)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff and Jennifer Arnold of Reciprocity Consulting provided an update on the Partnership Learning Project that is being led by the Bonneville Environmental Foundation. This Phase II update focused on the lessons learned from evaluation of the six Implementation FIPs.

O. Other Business (Audio = 6:01:15)

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m. by Co-Chair Will Neuhauser. (Audio =6:03:20)

October 16-17, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting Monitoring Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee Members

Chair Alan Henning, Stephen Brandt, Rosemary Furfey, Debbie Hollen, and Jason Robison

Background

The Monitoring Subcommittee oversees work associated with both open solicitation programmatic effectiveness monitoring (EM) and Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) monitoring. They also advise staff about improvements to monitoring grant-making processes.

Summary of Monitoring Subcommittee Work this Quarter

The subcommittee met on July 24 and September 18, 2018. In September, a portion of the meeting was a joint discussion with the Operating Capacity subcommittee. The monitoring subcommittee discussed the following topics during its meetings:

- Introduction of Lisa Appel, OWEB's new Conservation Outcomes Specialist;
- June board meeting debrief, including a shared need between the states for ongoing, long-term monitoring of restoration actions and the value of coordinated monitoring;
- Implementation FIP monitoring with Bonneville Environmental Foundation, including progress with the six I-FIPs to prioritize monitoring and reporting needs—identified through the results chain process—that will be addressed with supplemental funding;
- Retrospective analyses with local partners to 'tell the story' of OWEB's investments (e.g., fish passage in the Rogue and Warner basins; instream in the Coos, McKenzie, and West Fork Smith watersheds; oak and prairie restoration in the Willamette Valley; and floodplain reconnection in Meacham Creek); partners are submitting applications and the first stories are anticipated in early 2019;
- Recent improvements to online grant applications and guidance for monitoring grants to address feedback received during the monitoring application guidance process; and
- The monitoring framework for Strategic Implementation Areas that has been developed by an interagency team under the Coordinated Streamside Management initiative.

In July and September, the committee provided feedback about the proposed evaluation approach for monitoring the results of past operating capacity investments in watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts (SWCD). This approach is being developed in consultation with Dialogues in Action, as they advise the agency about methods for tracking progress of strategic plan implementation, and Oregon Department of Agriculture, given their involvement with SWCDs.

In September, the monitoring subcommittee reviewed and commented on a draft of high-priority next steps that emerged from the tidegate literature review completed by OSU. The revised list will be presented to the board in October.

Future items for the subcommittee's agenda include: continued tracking of next steps from past monitoring work, possible new areas for programmatic effectiveness monitoring, and tracking of strategic plan implementation. The group will meet again on November 12, 2018.

To Be Presented at the October 2018 Board Meeting by:

Alan Henning, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact

Renee Davis, Deputy Director, renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203

October 16-17, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting Focused Investment Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee Members

Chair Jason Robison, Alan Henning, Gary Marshall, Will Neuhauser, Ron Alvarado, Paul Henson, Bruce Buckmaster

Background

The Focused Investment Subcommittee focuses on issues related to the Focused Investment Program (FIP), including Development and Implementation FIPs, and the effectiveness of these programs.

Summary of Focused Investment Subcommittee Work this Quarter

The subcommittee met on September 14 and discussed the following topics:

- The 2019-2021 Implementation FIP Solicitation process – Staff described the evaluation process for the ten Implementation FIP proposals. Expert review teams have met to evaluate proposals and provided ratings based on criteria described in administrative rules. Staff will compile the reviews and present them to the FIP Subcommittee and the applicants. The subcommittee will have a call November 2 to ask clarifying questions on the application reviews; and the subcommittee will meet in public session November 7-8 to interview applicants and rank the applications for board consideration at the January 15-16 board meeting. The subcommittee meeting will be chaired by Will Neuhauser.
- Plans for updating the Board-designated ecological priorities for FIP program –Staff noted that current priorities were established in 2015, and administrative rules state that the priorities shall be approved at least every five years. The subcommittee discussed initial thoughts on obtaining public input on the priorities, and if necessary, the process for making adjustments to the priorities ahead of an anticipated Implementation FIP solicitation in 2020, so that any changes can be incorporated into the solicitation.
- Implementation FIP reporting to the board – Staff described the process by which the current Implementation FIPs will conduct biennial reporting to the board. At the January 15-16, 2019 meeting, a written report and presentation will be provided to the board by each partnership. At the April 16-17, 2019 meeting, updated FIP budgets and work plans will be provided to the board.
- Development FIP Solicitation-Staff noted that consultations with partnerships interested in the Development FIP program are underway, with applications due October 22. The board will be making decisions on grant awards for this solicitation at the January 15-16, 2019 meeting.
- The subcommittee will meet again on November 2, 2018.

To Be Presented at the October 2018 Board Meeting by:

Jason Robison, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
eric.williams@oregon.gov or 503-986-0047

October 16-17, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting Operating Capacity Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee Members

Chair Debbie Hollen, Jan Lee, Laura Masterson, and Liza Jane McAlister

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 collaboration grants.

Summary of Monitoring Subcommittee Work this Quarter

The subcommittee met in joint session with the monitoring committee in September. A summary of that meeting is provided in the monitoring committee staff report.

The subcommittee met on September 18 and discussed the 2019-2021 Council Capacity grant cycle and changes to the guidance document. The subcommittee has no concerns with the proposed changes, which will be discussed by the board during agenda item E.

The subcommittee will meet again on November 1, 2018.

To Be Presented at the October 2018 Board Meeting by:

Debbie Hollen, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact

Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator
courtney.shaff@oregon.gov or 503-986-0046



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item E – Council Capacity Grant Guidance Updates
October 16-17, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will brief the board about updates to the 2019-2021 biennium Council Capacity grant guidance and seek board approval of the updates.

II. 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. Biennial grants have now been awarded twice under the revised program, and the 2019-2021 biennium grant offering will be announced in December 2018. Many technological updates have occurred at OWEB since the revised program was launched, including the development of an online application. Many of the proposed program changes (Attachment A) are in response to moving council capacity grants into the online application system, and based on feedback from applicants, staff, and reviewers.

III. Program Updates

A. Online Application

Staff have been working with the new online application builder tool to move the council capacity grant application into OWEB's online application system. Testing of the new application will occur in October with any needed changes based on feedback from testers occurring in November. The two most significant changes are:

1. The merging of the eligibility and application deadlines. One deadline will be easier for staff and applicants to manage and will work effectively within the structure of the online application system;
2. The elimination of the annual work plan update. In its place a progress report will be submitted only by councils that are placed in the reduced funding category.

B. Merit Criteria

Currently there are five merit criteria:

1. Effective management
2. Effective governance
3. Progress in planning

4. Progress toward on-the-ground restoration, and
5. Progress toward community engagement for the purposes of on-the-ground restoration.

Staff propose to merge the effective management and effective governance criteria into a single criterion entitled, “Effective Management and Governance.” These criteria refer to the management and governance of the organization and its staff. Two biennia of evaluating these criteria have demonstrated that they are very closely related and it is difficult to evaluate one separate from the other. This change will make the merit evaluation process clearer for staff, applicants, and reviewers.

C. Simplify Guidance Document Language

The council capacity grant guidance document contains a significant amount of information regarding the history of the program, why program changes were made, and how to apply using a different application system. Now that we are entering into the third biennium under the program revisions, much of that information is not necessary for applicants to understand when applying for a grant. Staff propose to update and simplify language in the new version of the document. The goals are to 1) shorten the document and make it easier to read, 2) align guidance with the online application system, and 3) remove background information that is captured in other locations.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve the changes to the 2019-2021 council capacity grant program and guidance document.

Attachments

- A. Summary of council capacity grant guidance changes.
- B. Draft 2019-2021 Council Capacity Grant Guidance document

Summary of Proposed Changes to Council Capacity Grant Guidance Document for 2019-2021

Background, Page 2

1. Updated and simplified background information and removed references to the 2010 Strategic Plan.

Definitions, Pages 3-4

1. Changed community engagement to stakeholder engagement and aligned definition to stakeholder engagement application rules.
2. Removed examples under restoration, stakeholder engagement, and organizational development and management.
3. Removed reorganized council.

Eligibility Criteria, Pages 3-7

1. Simplified background information.
2. Removed all information related to eligibility review deadline. This deadline has been merged with the application deadline.
3. Removed background information on geographic and population criteria.
4. Removed information on legal entity, now captured through our grant management processes.
5. Simplified the eligibility review process since it now will occur when the application is submitted online.

How to Apply for a Council Capacity Grant, Page 7

1. Simplified to only include information about how to apply through the online application system and the application deadline.

Merit Evaluation Process, Page 8

1. The initial OWEB evaluation will occur over 2 days, with all RPRs meeting together to discuss the councils. This will help provide a statewide context during the review and increase consistency.
2. Removed references to two-year work plan. The guidance now only references the application.
3. Removed references to the annual work plan update; this will no longer be required.

Merit Criteria, Pages 8-10

1. Merged the effective governance and management criteria, resulting in changing from 5 to 4 merit criteria.
2. Additional examples were added under all criteria.
3. Changed references from limiting factors to action plan and strategic plan.

Summary of Proposed Changes to Council Capacity Grant Guidance Document for 2019-2021

Use of Funds, Page 13

1. Clarified the types of outreach activities that are eligible and that education activities are not eligible.

Grant Agreement Conditions, Page 13

1. Removed references to online work plan update.
2. Added language to require all grantees to send all meeting announcements to OWEB Project Manager.
 - Removed language around insurance requirements. These are now captured in all grant agreements.
 - If the OWEB Project Manager does not receive meeting notices, quarterly payments will be held until the information is received.
3. Required all councils that are in the reduced funding category to submit a progress report halfway through the biennium.
4. Clarified what is eligible and not eligible under education, outreach, and stakeholder engagement.

OWEB Grant Management Changes

- OWEB RPRs will attend at least two meetings a biennium of any council in the reduced funding category.

2019-2021 Guidance for Outcome-Based Watershed Council Operating Capacity Grants

How to use this Guidance

On July 29, 2014, the OWEB Board adopted 1) Oregon Administrative Rules 695-040-0010 through 0150 for Outcome-Based Watershed Council Operating Capacity Grants (Council Capacity Grants), and 2) this Guidance document. OWEB staff will use this Guidance in administering the Council Capacity Grant program.

In making determinations under this Guidance, OWEB will consider the spirit and intent of Oregon statutes defining watershed councils, Council Capacity Grant rules, the goals and objectives OWEB seeks to achieve through Council Capacity Grants, the Board's policy direction, and this Guidance.

A watershed council that wants to apply for a Council Capacity Grant should read this Guidance to determine:

1. Whether the council is eligible to apply,
2. How to apply,
3. How the application and the council will be evaluated, and
4. How funding decisions are made.

Guidance Updates

This Guidance will be periodically updated by the OWEB Board as needed. The Board delegates to OWEB staff the authority to make **non-policy updates**, such as deadlines for eligibility and application materials; staff contact information; website links; and correction of typos and errors.

Contact Information

Courtney Shaff
OWEB Capacity Programs Coordinator
503-986-0046

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OWEB's Salem Office Address

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
Salem OR 97301-1290

OWEB's Website: <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/Pages/index.aspx>

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I. Background

Operating Capacity Investments are a core element of OWEB's Long-Term Investment Strategy. Council Capacity Grants:

- Help support operating costs of effective watershed councils;
- Are performance and outcome-based; and
- Contain high standards for eligibility, reporting and accountability.

OWEB envisions a statewide watershed restoration system that is resilient, sustainable and achieves ecological outcomes. Experience gained from supporting watershed work since 1997, and studies of successful watershed groups, demonstrate this vision can be achieved with watershed councils that:

- Are strong organizations with access to diverse skillsets.
- Have broad and deep support from local and regional communities.
- Engage a balance of interested and affected people, businesses, and communities in their watershed to participate in voluntary, cooperative conservation.
- Secure diversified funding and/or build strategic collaborations with other councils and/or natural resource groups to increase collective local capacity.

II. Definitions

These terms are used throughout this Guidance. Additional definitions are provided in Council Capacity Grant rules OAR 695-040-0020.

A. Coordinating council

A council that provides support to, and coordinates the work of, multiple councils. The coordinating council's governing body includes at least one member from each council participating in the coordinating council.

B. Membership organization

An organization with a defined group of individuals who play a role in the governance of the organization (i.e., by voting for a board of directors or other governing body that is responsible for the governance of the council).

C. Local government

Defined in ORS 174.116(1)(a) as all cities, counties and local service districts located in this state, and all administrative subdivisions of those cities, counties and local service districts.

D. Council's governing body

Means the group of people who have the responsibility to a) ensure that the council meets legal requirements, b) support successful achievement of the council's goals, and c) create a structure, policies, and procedures that support good governance.

E. On-the-ground watershed restoration

Activities with the objective of altering the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of the landscape in order to improve ecological process and function.

F. Stakeholder engagement

Activities with the purpose to communicate and build ongoing, permanent relationships with landowners, organizations, and the community in the watershed for the purposes of carrying out eligible restoration and acquisition projects, or programs that lead to development of eligible projects.

G. Organizational development and management

Activities with the objective of improving the council's organizational effectiveness and health.

III. Eligibility Criteria

Which Councils Are Eligible to Apply for Council Capacity Grants

A. Purpose of Eligibility Criteria: OAR 695-040-0030

Eligibility criteria define how OWEB will determine whether a watershed council is eligible to apply for a Council Capacity Grant. *The eligibility criteria do not limit or control the existence or creation of watershed councils.* Watershed councils may form around the state according to ORS 541.910 and 541.890(15); **however, OWEB shall not accept an application for a Council Capacity Grant unless OWEB determines the council or group of councils meets the eligibility criteria.**

Eligibility criteria seek to ensure that OWEB's council capacity investment:

Is an effective and accountable use of public funds;

Supports councils that meet the intent of Oregon statutes defining watershed councils; and

Encourages strategic collaboration to build collective local capacity for watershed restoration.

A. OWEB Determination of Eligibility for a Group of Councils with One Council Capacity Grant

OWEB's eligibility review is simpler for multiple councils that operate collectively because there is a coordinating council that supports actions of all the councils.

1. Group of Councils Operating Collectively

If OWEB determines two or more councils operate collectively, OWEB will conduct eligibility review only for the coordinating council serving as applicant. **The coordinating council is responsible for ensuring all participating councils operate in alignment with the coordinating council's bylaws or charter to the extent necessary for the participating councils to meet the eligibility criteria.**

a. OWEB shall determine whether councils operate collectively by reviewing the bylaws or charter of the coordinating council and finding all of the following covered in the bylaws or charter:

i. There is a coordinating council as defined in this Guidance; and

ii. One Council Action Plan covers the work of all councils.

2. Group of Councils Operating Independently

a. If OWEB determines the councils operate independently, each council is required to meet all eligibility criteria described (except Geographic Area and Population, which the group of councils must meet). If one or more independent council does not meet all eligibility criteria, then none of the councils can apply for a Council Capacity Grant during the upcoming cycle.

- b. OWEB shall determine whether councils operate independently by reviewing each council's bylaws or charter and, if necessary, using OWEB's knowledge as a funder, to verify:
 - i. Each council has its own council coordinator or executive director;
 - ii. There is no coordinating council.

IV. Eligibility Criteria and OWEB Review

OAR 695-040-0030

A. Local government designation as a watershed council

OWEB will determine local government designation by reviewing the local government ordinance or minutes of a local government action and reviewing the map of the geographic area designated by the county.

1. For watershed councils previously awarded a Watershed Council Support Grant, the council shall be designated as a watershed council by a local government.
2. For new or reorganized watershed councils, the council shall be designated as a watershed council by a county commission, county board, or county court. The documentation submitted to OWEB shall include a map of the geographic area designated by the county commission, board, or court.

B. Geographic Area and Population

1. A geographic area served by a council or group of councils can change. However, to be eligible, OWEB shall determine that a council or group of councils serves an area:
 - a. In which a council or group of councils previously received a Watershed Council Support Grant or Council Capacity Grant; and
 - b. That is the same or larger than the geographic area served by a council or group of councils as of July 1, 2013. To make the determination of "the same or larger," OWEB shall use the OWEB Watershed Council Map which was updated in June 2014 to correct council boundaries based on information supplied by councils; and
 - c. That includes a minimum population of 500 individuals within its designated boundary or boundaries.
 - i. If there is a question on population OWEB will use the most current U.S. Census Bureau's census block shapefile for the state of Oregon and if necessary, absentee landowner information from county records.
2. No more than one applicant shall be eligible in the same geographic area.

C. Council Action Plan Adopted by Governing Body

OWEB shall determine whether the council has a Council Action Plan by reviewing the plan(s) and evidence of governing body adoption on file in OWEB's records, and determining whether the plan(s) meet the minimum criteria described below.

1. A Council Action Plan is **NOT** a watershed assessment and is not the 2 year council capacity work plan. Action plans are living documents that will change over time as projects are implemented and new priorities arise. **At a minimum**, the plan or set of plans need to identify and prioritize ecological problems the council seeks to address, and voluntary on-the-ground

watershed restoration activities the council will conduct to address those problems. The plan(s) can either be for the entire watershed or for sub watersheds, depending on the focus areas of the council. Council Action Plans may also contain other goals and objectives such as stakeholder engagement efforts, monitoring, and funding strategies for priority restoration work.

D. Organizational Structure and Business Operations

OWEB shall review the bylaws or charter and policies and procedures (“governing documents”) to determine whether they contain the required topics. [OAR 695-040-0030(5)]

OWEB shall also determine whether the governing documents were adopted by the council’s governing body. Acceptable evidence of governing body adoption is (a) Meeting minutes that describe the governing body’s adoption of the governing documents; or (b) A signature page contained within the governing documents and signed by the Board Chair or Secretary, dated, and indicating the action taken by the governing body.

1. OWEB Determination

Council governing documents shall cover all topics in OAR 695-040-0030(5) in order for OWEB to determine the council is eligible to apply.

2. Topics Covered in Current Bylaws or Charter

a. Council Mission

A council may have multiple purposes in its mission. However, at a minimum, the bylaws or charter shall indicate that “a primary purpose of the council is to work collaboratively with communities and landowners to develop and carry out voluntary watershed protection, restoration, enhancement, and stakeholder engagement activities.”

b. Governing Body and Officers

The bylaws or charter shall contain the following topics:

- i. How the governing body is selected;
- ii. Titles of officers, e.g., Chair, President, Secretary, Treasurer;
- iii. How officers are selected;
- iv. Who is eligible for the governing body;
- v. Who is eligible to be an officer;
- vi. Length of service on governing body;
- vii. Length of service for officers;
- viii. Powers of governing body;
- ix. Powers of officers;
- x. Minimum number or frequency of governing body meetings;
- xi. Decision making process of governing body; and
- xii. A statement that the council intends its governing body to include a diverse range of geographic areas and community interests in the watershed in order to engage a balance of interested and affected persons within the watershed as required by ORS 541.910(2).

c. Process for Amending Bylaws or Charter

The bylaws or charter shall describe a process for amending the bylaws or charter.

d. Membership Organization Provisions

If the council is a membership organization, the bylaws or charter shall also include the following topics:

- i. Who is eligible for watershed council membership;
- ii. Minimum frequency of council membership meetings;
- iii. The decision making role of the membership; and
- iv. Mechanisms to remove members from the watershed council or terminate the voting rights of members. The bylaws or charter may provide for either removal or voting right termination, or provide for both.

3. Topics Covered in Current Policies and Procedures

a. A list of the geographic areas and community interests the council intends to include on its governing body in order to engage a balance of interested and affected persons within the watershed pursuant to ORS 541.910(2).

b. A policy that the council operates as an open and inclusive organization. The policy shall include at a minimum the following elements:

- i. Inviting the public to council meetings, and
- ii. The council, upon request, provides the public with meeting agendas and records of decisions. This does not include personnel discussions and actions.

c. A policy that the council, or its fiscal sponsor, uses Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

d. A policy that the council does not rely on litigation to compel regulatory enforcement as a means to implement the council's mission.

- i. Reason: Council Capacity Grants help support councils that engage people and communities to participate in collaborative, voluntary restoration and protection of native fish or wildlife habitat and natural watershed functions to improve water quality or stream flows. The role of watershed councils has been to bring people together to solve problems.
- ii. Councils that use litigation to pursue protection, enhancement or restoration of watershed health (for example, litigation to enforce environmental regulations) are not eligible for Council Capacity Grants.
- iii. Litigation necessary to enforce contracts is not considered litigation to compel regulatory enforcement as a means to implement the council's mission.

V. OWEB Eligibility Review

OAR 695-040-0090

A. Eligibility Review

OWEB staff shall complete the eligibility review of Council Capacity grant applications and notify all councils of the results within one month of the application deadline. Councils determined to be ineligible may appeal to OWEB's Executive Director through the process described below.

B. Appeal Process

1. Opportunity to Appeal to OWEB Executive Director

If a council disputes the determination it is not eligible to apply and wishes to appeal, it may appeal to the OWEB Director (OAR 695-040-0090(2)). The appeal shall follow all of the requirements below.

a. Appeal by the Deadline: April 19, 2019.

b. Appeal Materials: The council's appeal letter and any attachments shall be sent to OWEB by delivery service that provides documentation of receipt (e.g., email that includes receipt of delivery confirmation, or registered or certified letter). To be considered, the letter shall be received by OWEB by the appeal deadline. Letters of support will not be reviewed and should not be submitted.

c. Appeal Review and Decision: OWEB's Executive Director will review the council's letter and any attached information. A council's appeal shall be granted only where the Executive Director determines the council provided clear and convincing evidence that council meets all the eligibility criteria described in OAR 695-040-0030.

2. Future Eligibility Review Requests Allowed

Councils determined to be ineligible for a particular Council Capacity Grant offering may request eligibility review during future Council Capacity Grant offerings.

VI. How to Apply for a Council Capacity Grant

OAR 695-040-0100

A. Deadline to Apply: March 18, 2019

Applications are only accepted through our online system.

An OGMS login is required to access the online grant application. If no login exists for an organization, please email Leilani Sullivan at Leilani.Sullivan@oregon.gov to request one.

Log in to the Online Application

Online Application: <https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/oweb/oa/>

Guidance to help you fill out the application is always available in the top navigation bar of the online application. An application template is also available after you log in and choose "Create a New Application."

VII. Merit Evaluation

695-040-0110

A. Goals of OWEB's Merit Evaluation

1. Ensure strategic and accountable investment of public funds;
2. Encourage continuous improvement in watershed councils' organizational management, operating structure, and functions, and the planning and implementation of on-the-ground watershed protection, restoration, enhancement, and stakeholder engagement activities; and
3. Ensure watershed councils are working toward strengthening their role in watersheds through activities focusing on council resilience, leadership, collaboration, and representing a balance of interested and affected persons within the watershed as required by ORS 541.910(2).

B. Information Considered in Merit Review

The four merit criteria below guide OWEB's evaluation of a council's progress and performance. OWEB will consider:

- The Council Capacity Grant application.
- OWEB staff's knowledge of council performance including information gained through the council's OWEB project grants and OWEB staff's attendance at council meetings and events.
- Any supplemental information provided by the council in response to OWEB's request.
- If requested by OWEB, interviews with council officers and staff.

C. Merit Criteria

1. Merit Criterion #1: Effective Governance and Management

The council has effective bylaws or charter and policies and procedures, and follows them. The council includes a balance of interested and affected persons from the watershed on its governing body. The council regularly evaluates and takes action to improve its organization including operations and policies.

The governing body takes action to ensure the council meets legal obligations and requirements; support successful achievement of the council's goals; and create organizational structure, policies, and procedures to support good governance. The council's governing body provides effective oversight of staff and contractors.

Evidence of Effective Governance and Management

- a. The council holds elections according to its bylaws or charter.
- b. The council holds governing body meetings according to its bylaws or charter, and its governing body meets at least four times a year.
- c. The council operates as an open and inclusive organization according to its policies and procedures, including inviting the public to council meetings by publishing its meeting schedule in advance of meetings in a manner that provides adequate notice to the general public.
- d. The council, upon request, provides the public with records of its meetings and decisions.
- e. The council completes a self-evaluation or other assessment of its governing body at least once every two years.

- f. The council's governing body includes a mix of different interests which may include the geographic areas and community interests identified in the council's policies and procedures.
- g. The council annually reviews its policies and procedures.
- h. The council adopts an annual budget and regularly reviews that budget.
- i. The board regularly examines the nonprofit financial statements and discusses questions, concerns, issues, i.e. the board takes responsibility for the financial health of the nonprofit.
- j. The council has defined roles and responsibilities for its governing body and officers and follows them.
- k. The council has on file a current position description or set of deliverables for the council's executive director or coordinator.
- l. The council has personnel policies and follows them.
- m. The council coordinator or executive director is annually evaluated by the council.
- n. If the council is a membership organization,
 - i. The council holds membership meetings according to its bylaws or charter, and
 - ii. The council membership meetings include agendas, attendance records, and records of decisions, and the council keeps this information on file and makes it available to the public upon request.

2. Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning

In planning its priority work, the council makes progress in engaging a balance of interested and affected persons in the watershed. The council uses its planning documents, such as the action plan, strategic plan, and other relevant documents, to identify and implement on-the-ground watershed restoration and stakeholder engagement projects. The council regularly evaluates its action plan and work plans and makes adjustments to respond to changes and challenges.

Evidence of Progress in Planning

- a. The council's 2-year work plan is reviewed and adopted by the council's governing body.
- b. Work plan projects are linked to the council's action plan and/or strategic plan.
- c. Council work plans are developed with consideration of the council's staffing and organizational resources.
- d. The council capacity grant application demonstrates the council is working with a mix of watershed stakeholders to plan and prioritize work to address current needs. Example: working with a technical team, or a council project committee, to review and update the council's action plan(s).
- e. The council has a succession plan for board members and the executive director/coordinator.

3. Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration

The council's actions result in progress in completing priority, on-the-ground watershed restoration work.

Evidence of Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration (at a minimum a-c below; OWEB may request additional information if there are questions or concerns whether there is progress in on-the-ground restoration)

- a. The application demonstrates the council’s actions resulted in progress toward completing priority on-the-ground restoration projects.
 - b. The application demonstrates the council has a clear niche related to on-the-ground restoration within the broader watershed community.
 - c. The council’s on-the-ground watershed restoration activities are linked to the council’s action plan and/or strategic plan.
4. **Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes**
The council’s actions result in progress in achieving specific stakeholder engagement objectives.

Evidence of Progress in Stakeholder Engagement (at a minimum a-c below; OWEB may request additional information if there are questions or concerns whether there is progress in stakeholder engagement)

- a. The council has identified priority stakeholder engagement activities and is making progress completing those activities.
- b. The application demonstrates the council has a clear nice related to stakeholder engagement within the broader watershed community.
- c. The council’s stakeholder engagement activities are linked to the council’s action plan and/or strategic plan or other stakeholder engagement plan.

D. Merit Evaluation 695-040-0110

1. Initial Merit Evaluation

a. Initial Review Panel

The Capacity Programs Coordinator will review all Council Capacity Grant applications.

Regional Program staff will review all applications within their OWEB region.

Focused Investment staff will review all applications of councils that have received OWEB Focused Investment grants.

The Small Grant Program Coordinator will participate in the Initial Merit Evaluation and provide input on all the applications.

b. Initial Merit Evaluation

The staff identified above will meet evaluate merit by considering:

- i. The Council Capacity Grant application;
- ii. OWEB staff’s knowledge of the council, including but not limited to the council’s history of performance on project and Council Capacity Grants.

If OWEB staff do not have a consensus merit evaluation, the Capacity Programs Coordinator, considering input from all staff involved in the review, will determine the initial merit evaluation. This evaluation will be communicated to the OWEB Executive Director prior to notifying councils.

c. Notice of initial merit evaluation

Notice of Initial Merit Review Results: Week of April 22, 2019

- i. If OWEB determines the councils meets all of the merit criteria it will notify the council coordinator via email that the council it met all merit criteria and will be recommended for funding at the highest funding level.

- ii. If OWEB determines the council does not meet all the merit criteria; OWEB has follow-up questions; or the council is a new or reorganized council, OWEB will send the council coordinator and council chair a follow-up letter and email including the following information:
 - a) Reasons for determination;
 - b) Questions raised during initial merit evaluation;
 - c) Supplemental information requested by OWEB;
 - d) Information on the required interview for the Secondary Review Process. (see below)
 - e) Council Required Next Steps
 - (i) Submit requested materials to OWEB by May 15, 2019.
 - (ii) Schedule an interview for the council coordinator and council officers with OWEB. Secondary Review and Interviews will be scheduled for the following dates: May 29, 30, 31, June 3 and 4, 2019.
 - (iii) If OWEB does not receive requested materials by the deadline, the Secondary Review will take this into account.
 - (iv) The Secondary Review will focus on OWEB's questions and concerns. Councils should not bring additional materials and should not expect to make presentations during the interview.

2. Secondary Review

a. Secondary Review Panel

- i. OWEB Capacity Programs Coordinator and Regional Program staff for councils in their OWEB region.
- ii. External Reviewers: The panel will include two representatives with statewide perspectives, one who works east and one who works west of the Cascades. In addition, one representative from each OWEB region will be included as applicable.
- iii. OWEB will send the following materials to panel members prior to the interview.
 - a) Council Capacity Grant application.
 - b) Additional information and documents provided by the council at OWEB's request.
 - c) OWEB memo summarizing the initial merit evaluation, questions and concerns, and topic areas to be covered in the interview.

b. The interview

The Secondary Review Panel will interview the council. The interview will focus on questions and concerns raised during the initial merit evaluation.

c. The discussion

Following the interview, the Secondary Review Panel will discuss whether the interview and additional materials provided by the council should change the initial merit evaluation. The external reviewers do not make funding recommendations to OWEB staff. Staff will consider feedback from the Secondary Review Panel when making merit evaluation determinations and funding recommendations to the OWEB Board.

3. **Notification of OWEB Merit Evaluation and Funding Recommendation0.**

OWEB shall prepare brief summaries of the merit evaluations for each applicant. The evaluations and staff funding recommendations will be posted in OGMS at least 2 weeks before the OWEB Board meeting in which Council Capacity Grant awards will be considered.

VIII. Board Action on Eligible Applications

695-040-0120

A. Staff Recommendations and Board Awards

Staff funding recommendations and Board awards will be based on 1) the merit evaluation and 2) available funding.

B. Staff funding recommendations and Board awards may include:

1. **Full base award for councils that meet all merit criteria**
 - a. Councils meeting all merit criteria shall be placed in the highest merit category and be recommended for the same level of award.
2. **Reduced base funding for councils that do not meet all merit criteria**
 - a. Councils that do not meet all merit criteria shall be placed in the reduced funding merit category and recommended for the same level of award. The reduced funding base award will be 80% of the full base award. For example, if the full base award is \$100,000, the reduced base award will be \$80,000.
3. **Reduced base funding in third consecutive grant cycle results in “do not fund” ranking**
 - a. If a council or group of councils is placed in the reduced base funding category for two consecutive grant cycles and does not meet all merit criteria in the following grant cycle, it shall be placed in the “do not fund” category for that third grant cycle. If eligible, a “do not fund” council may apply in future grant cycles.
4. **Discretion to rank Do Not Fund (inadequate performance)**
 - a. OWEB has the discretion to place a council in the “do not fund” merit category at any time. Factors OWEB will consider in this placement include:
 - b. The council does not meet all merit criteria.
 - c. The council’s history of performance over a period of years has resulted in little or no progress toward implementation and completion of on-the-ground watershed restoration projects.
 - d. The council’s history of performance over a period of years has resulted in little or no progress toward implementation and completion of stakeholder engagement activities.
 - e. The council’s history of organizational performance over a period of years has shown lack of board officer leadership, weak organizational structure, and/or poor organizational management.
 - f. The council has made little or no progress toward implementation and completion of organizational development and management activities.

C. OAR 695-040-0120(2)(d): Board Discretion on Larger Geographic Area

The Board has not adopted guidance to implement OAR 695-040-0120(3)(d), which provides Board discretion to award grants for larger geographic areas, and this section of the rules is not

currently implemented. Prior to implementation, this Guidance document will be updated through a process that includes public comment and Board adoption.

IX. Use of Funds

695-040-0130

Council Capacity Grants help fund staff, contractors and other costs of watershed councils. See OWEB’s most recent Budget Categories Definitions and Policy document for additional information.

Outreach Activities

Measure 76 and ORS 541.956 authorize OWEB to make grants available for outreach activities that are necessary for carrying out eligible restoration and acquisition projects that protect or restore native fish or wildlife habitat or that protect or restore natural watershed or ecosystem functions in order to improve water quality or stream flows. To qualify as necessary for restoration or acquisition, the project must be tied to a specific geography, address clearly articulated habitat or watershed or ecosystem function goals for that geography, and identify a clear path toward achieving the restoration or acquisition measurable outcomes within a reasonable and specific timeframe.

PROJECTS WHOSE PRIMARY PURPOSE ARE EDUCATION ARE NOT ELIGIBLE.

X. Grant Agreement Conditions

695-040-0140

A. Minimum grant agreement conditions for all Council Capacity Grants

1. Send all watershed council meeting announcements to the OWEB Project Manager.
2. Submit an annual report to all local government entities that designated the council. Upload each annual report and documentation it was shared (i.e. meeting agenda if the report was presented in person, a copy of a sent email if the report was submitted electronically) with the Council Capacity project completion report.
3. Complete the watershed council self-assessment form once a biennium. Upload the Summary Chart generated at completion of the assessment with the Council Capacity grant project completion report.
4. All councils that are placed in the reduced funding merit category will be required to submit a progress report halfway through the biennium.

B. Two or more independent councils submit written agreement

OWEB will not release a Council Capacity Grant agreement for a group of councils operating independently until the councils submit to OWEB a written agreement signed by the chair of each council. The agreement shall describe, at a minimum, 1) roles and responsibilities of each council in relation to the Council Capacity Grant work plan and reporting requirements, and 2) a plan for how the councils will allocate a Council Capacity Grant between them.

C. Other Conditions

Grant agreements may include conditions of funding such as progress reports or certain actions as a condition of receiving full funding. Conditions may allow OWEB staff to terminate the grant agreement if conditions are not met. OWEB staff would consult with the Executive Director before terminating a grant agreement.



Oregon

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item F – Spring 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering
October 16-17, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report describes the Spring 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering and funding recommendations. Staff request the board approve the funding recommendations outlined in Attachment D to the staff report, including funding for 40 restoration projects, 14 technical assistance projects, and 6 stakeholder engagement projects.

II. Spring 2018 Grant Offering Background and Summary

A. Applications Submitted

The Spring 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering solicited applications for Restoration, Technical Assistance, and Stakeholder Engagement. A total of 98 applications were received seeking nearly \$14.5 million. Attachment A shows applications submitted by region, project type, and funding request.

B. 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.

OWEB then facilitated RRT meetings in each region for all grant types offered. Reviewers considered the likelihood of success of the proposed project based on evaluation criteria in rule. For restoration, this includes proposal clarity, technical soundness, watershed context, capacity of the applicant, and cost effectiveness. For stakeholder engagement, evaluation criteria include technical soundness, timeliness, cost effectiveness, capacity of the applicant, and engagement. 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 will forward to the board any written comments received from applicants regarding the RRT and staff recommendations.

III. Spring 2018 Grant Offering and Board Policy Decisions

A. Salmon License Plate Projects

Using the board's 2015 policy related to projects funded with Salmon License Plate dollars, staff recommend distributing \$400,000 for this offering to two projects listed in Attachment B.

B. Sage-grouse Projects

At its April 2015 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 Spring 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering, there are four projects (219-4009, 219-5006, 219-5010, and 219-5016) recommended for funding that meet these criteria, requesting \$419,736. Total funding awarded to sage-grouse projects in all categories since April 2015 is \$6,509,619. If the recommended projects are awarded funding from the board, the new total will be \$6,929,355.

IV. Funding Recommendations

The funding recommendations for the Spring 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering are shown in Table 1. The remaining grant funds will be held for the final 2017-19 biennial grant offering.

Table 1: 2017-19 Spending Plan and Spring 2018 Grant Offering Staff Funding Recommendations

| Grant Type | Spending Plan Total | Previously Awarded | Grant Funds Available | Staff Recommendations | Recommended Grant Funds Remaining |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Restoration | \$32,000,000 | \$16,059,920 | \$15,940,080 | \$7,971,795 | \$7,968,285 |
| Technical Assistance | \$4,000,000 | \$1,843,508 | \$2,156,492 | \$791,556 | \$1,364,936 |
| Monitoring* | \$3,100,000 | \$1,783,942 | \$1,316,058 | \$0 | \$1,316,058 |
| Stakeholder Engagement | \$700,000 | \$169,200 | \$530,800 | \$463,136 | \$67,664 |
| TOTAL | \$39,800,000 | \$19,856,570 | \$19,943,430 | \$9,226,487 | \$10,716,943 |

*Not offered in the Spring Offering

Table 1

A. Development of Staff Recommendations

OWEB staff considered the RRT recommendations and the funding availability in the 2017-2019 spending plan in developing the staff funding recommendation to the board. Attachment C 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. Spring 2018 Grant Offering – Funding Recommendations

Staff recommend the board fund the applications listed in Attachment D.

Attachments

- A. Grant Applications Submitted
- B. Salmon License Plate Projects
- C. RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations
- D. Regions 1-6 Funding Recommendations

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board May 7, 2018 Open Solicitation Offering

Applications Received by Type

| | Stakeholder Engagement | Technical Assistance | Restoration | Totals |
|----------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|--------|
| Region 1 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 13 |
| Region 2 | 1 | 7 | 11 | 19 |
| Region 3 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 14 |
| Region 4 | 0 | 5 | 8 | 13 |
| Region 5 | 1 | 5 | 18 | 24 |
| Region 6 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 15 |
| Totals | 11 | 30 | 57 | 98 |

Dollar Amounts by Application Type

| | Stakeholder Engagement | Technical Assistance | Restoration | Totals |
|----------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Region 1 | 84,597 | 252,001 | 1,446,548 | \$1,783,146 |
| Region 2 | 169,792 | 322,074 | 3,463,646 | \$3,955,512 |
| Region 3 | 176,460 | 289,749 | 860,441 | \$1,326,650 |
| Region 4 | 0 | 308,211 | 1,925,265 | \$2,233,476 |
| Region 5 | 78,710 | 219,408 | 1,762,982 | \$2,061,100 |
| Region 6 | 63,815 | 183,002 | 1,827,506 | \$2,074,323 |
| Totals | \$573,374 | \$1,574,445 | \$11,286,388 | \$13,434,207 |

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board**Spring 2018 Grant Cycle Salmon License Plate Projects**

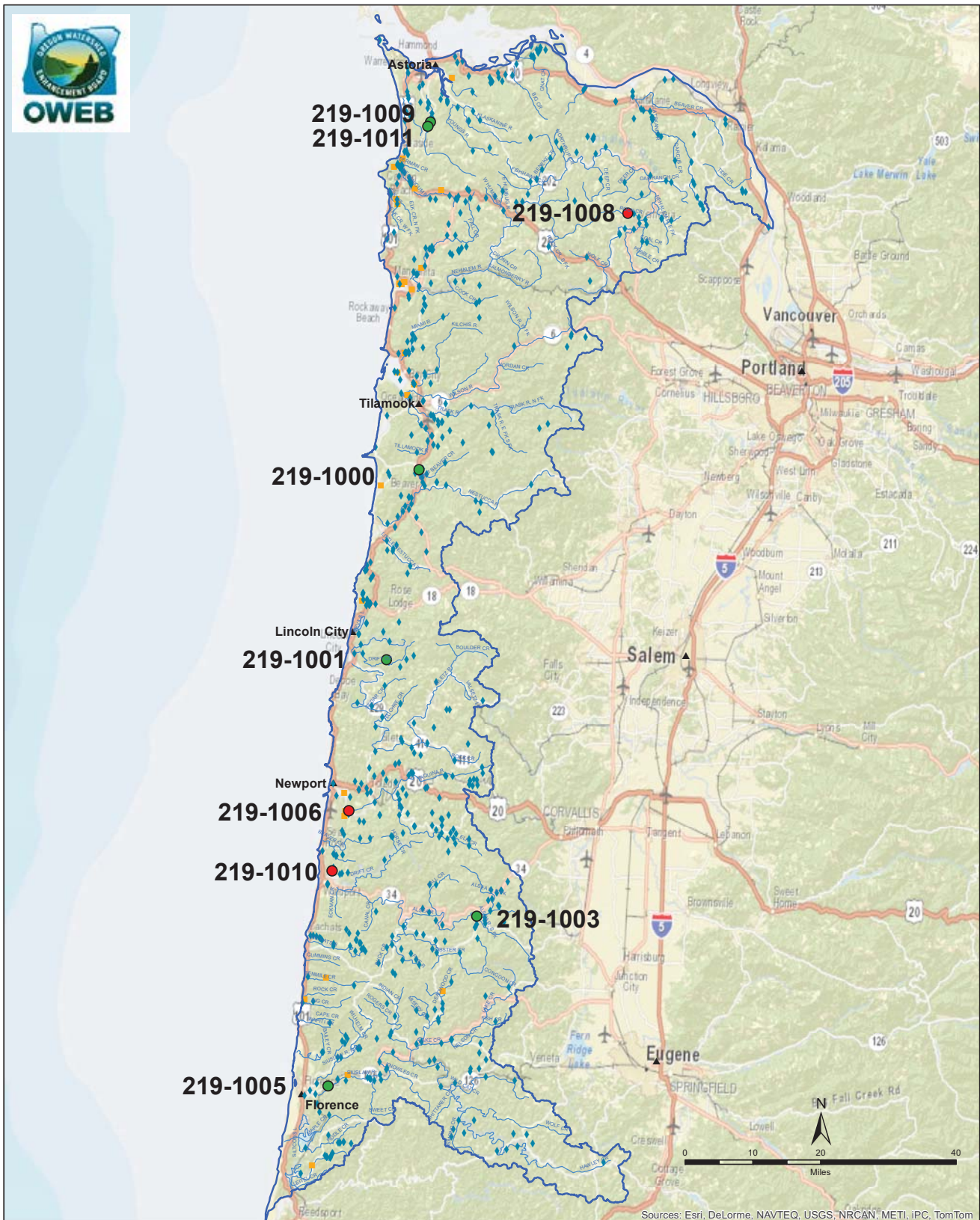
| Application # | Title | Project Objectives | Total OWEB Grant | Salmon License Plate Contribution |
|----------------------|--|---|-------------------------|--|
| 219-1001 | North Creek Aquatic Organism Passage Restoration | Replace a fish passage barrier to provide access to 13 miles of habitat for Coho, cutthroat, and steelhead. | \$370,174 | \$200,000 |
| 219-2007 | Seestrom Tidelands Restoration | Replace failing tidegates to restore 270 acres of critical winter habitat for anadromous fish. | \$808,600 | \$200,000 |
| | | | Total | \$400,000 |

**RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations
for the Spring 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering**

| Region | Restoration | | | Technical Assistance | | | Stakeholder Engagement | | |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|------------|----------------------|-----------|------------|------------------------|----------|------------|
| | RRT | Staff | % | RRT | Staff | % | RRT | Staff | % |
| Region 1 | 3 | 3 | 100% | 4 | 2 | 50% | 2 | 1 | 50% |
| Region 2 | 9 | 4 | 44% | 6 | 3 | 50% | 1 | 1 | 100% |
| Region 3 | 5 | 5 | 100% | 4 | 2 | 50% | 4 | 2 | 50% |
| Region 4 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 4 | 3 | 75% | 0 | 0 | - |
| Region 5 | 13 | 13 | 100% | 4 | 1 | 25% | 1 | 1 | 100% |
| Region 6 | 9 | 9 | 100% | 3 | 3 | 100% | 1 | 1 | 100% |
| Total | 45 | 40 | 89% | 25 | 14 | 56% | 9 | 6 | 67% |

| Region | Restoration | Technical Assistance | Stakeholder Engagement |
|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Region 1 | \$831,908 | \$120,901 | \$42,312 |
| Region 2 | \$1,977,078 | \$132,462 | \$169,792 |
| Region 3 | \$861,849 | \$141,151 | \$125,588 |
| Region 4 | \$1,295,477 | \$158,715 | \$0 |
| Region 5 | \$1,280,382 | \$60,275 | \$78,710 |
| Region 6 | \$1,725,101 | \$178,052 | \$46,734 |
| Total | \$7,971,795 | \$1,034,812 | \$463,136 |

North Coast - Region 1 Spring 2018 Funding Recommendations



Document Path: Z:\oweb\Technical_Services\Information_Services\GIS\Maps\Review Team Meetings\2018SpringCycle\Projects\Region1_AppFundingStatus_11x17_2018Spring.mxd
 ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB- PK Wilsa 20180925

Funding Recommendations

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

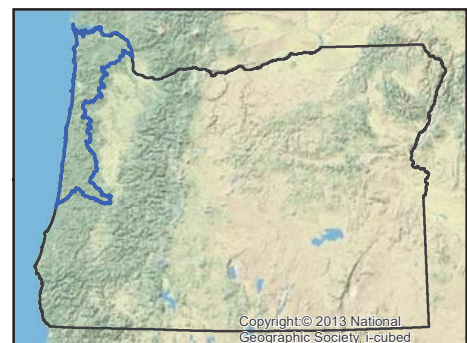
Previous Grants - 1998-2017

- ◆ Restoration
- Acquisitions
- ~ Streams
- ▭ Region Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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 Salem, OR 97301-1290
 (503) 986-0178
<http://oregon.gov/OWEB/>

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Region 1 - North Coast

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------|-----------|
| 219-1001 | MidCoast WC | North Creek Aquatic Organism Passage Restoration | This project will replace a fish passage barrier on North Creek, a tributary of Drift Creek in the Siletz River basin, with a new structure that provides passage for all life stages of fish, including coho salmon, cutthroat, and steelhead trout. Access will be restored to 13 miles of habitat. | 370,174 | Lincoln |
| 219-1000 | Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council | Bear Creek Culvert Replacement | Access will be restored to 3 miles of habitat as this project will replace a fish passage barrier on Bear Creek, a tributary of the Nestucca River, with a new structure that provides passage for all life stages of fish, including coho salmon, and steelhead trout. | 268,368 | Tillamook |
| 219-1003 | MidCoast WC | Bummer Creek Stream, Floodplain, Wetland and Oak Savanna Restoration | This project will reconnect portions of Bummer Creek, a tributary of the South Fork Alsea River, with its floodplain and restore riparian habitats in order to address limiting factors for coho salmon and other aquatic species. Oak savanna and oak woodland habitat on the site will also be restored and enhanced. | 193,366 | Benton |
| Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff | | | | 831,908 | |

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
|--|---------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------|
| | | None | | | |
| Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | 831,908 | |

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County |
|-----------|------------------|--|---------|-----------|
| 219-1002 | Tillamook Bay WC | Mill Creek Fish Passage Project | 547,616 | Tillamook |
| 219-1004 | Lincoln SWCD | Mill/Slack Creeks Riparian Enhancement Project and Tide Gate Removal | 40,334 | Lincoln |

Region 1 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

| Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|----------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 219-1005 | McKenzie River Trust | Waite Ranch TA 2018 | Final designs for a 217 estuarine restoration project on the Siuslaw River will be produced. Geotechnical work, drawings, technical specifications will be developed to support the return of historic tidal exchange to the Waite Ranch property, providing critical habitat for Oregon coast coho salmon and other estuary dependent fish and wildlife. | 46,436 | North Coast |
| 219-1009 | North Coast WS Assn | Lower Columbia Chum SAP | This project will create a Strategic Action Plan for Columbia River Chum Salmon in the Lower Columbia watershed. The plan will identify and prioritize restoration projects that address limiting factors for the species. | 74,465 | Lower Columbia |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff | | | | 120,901 | |
| Technical Assistance Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 219-1006 | Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians | Yaquina Bay Native Olympia Oyster Restoration Project | A long-term plan will be developed to restore populations of the native Olympia oyster to Yaquina Bay. Data on habitat characteristics will be collected and optimum areas for restoration in the estuary will be identified. | 49,945 | North Coast |
| 219-1008 | Columbia SWCD | Rock Creek Restoration TA | This project will complete cultural resources work necessary for the development of a final design for restoration on Rock Creek, a tributary of the Nehalem River. The resulting restoration effort will restore riparian and floodplain habitats along the creek. | 12,954 | North Coast |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | 183,800 | |
| Technical Assistance Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County | |
| 219-1007 | Upper Nehalem WC | Fishhawk Lake Replacement Fish Passage Construction Design | 68,202 | | |

Region 1 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|----------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 219-1011 | North Coast WS Assn | Lower Columbia Chum Landowner Outreach | This project will conduct landowner outreach necessary for implementing the Lower Columbia Chum Strategic Action Plan. Landowners in areas prioritized for restoration will be engaged with the goal of building support for implementing chum recovery in the watershed. | 42,312 | Lower Columbia |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff | | | | 42,312 | |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County | |
| 219-1010 | The Wetlands Conservancy | Bayview Oxbow | A long-term conservation strategy for the Bayview Oxbow area in the Alsea watershed will be developed through outreach with neighbors adjacent to existing protected land. | 23,975 | North Coast |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT | | | | 66,287 | |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Not Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County | |
| 219-1012 | Columbia SWCD | Outreach Plan Implementation | 18,310 | Lower Columbia | |
| Region 1 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award | | | | 995,121 | 10.79% |
| Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award | | | | 9,226,487 | |

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1000-16332

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Bear Creek Culvert Replacement

Applicant: Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$268,368

Total Cost: \$500,368

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Bear Creek culvert replacement project is located on Tillamook County owned East Beaver Creek Road just east of the community of Hemlock. This culvert is the only remaining fish passage barrier on Bear Creek. Bear Creek drains a 1,600 acre watershed and enters East Beaver Creek near its confluence with West Beaver Creek, a tributary of the Nestucca River. From its headwaters on National Forest land, Bear Creek flows through private timber land and privately owned pastures. Bear Creek contains over 3.0 miles of anadromous fish habitat. The existing culvert is a corrugated metal pipe arch undersized for the stream that is approaching failure and is in critical condition. The project proposes to replace the aging, failing, undersized culvert with an appropriately sized bridge that meets Aquatic Organism Passage Standards and is sized at 1.5x Active Channel Width (ACW) for the replacement structure. Project partners include US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Tillamook County and Nestucca, Neskowin and Sand Lake Watersheds Council (NNSL). US Forest Service, in cooperation with Tillamook County and NNSL, has developed an engineered design and channel restoration plan to replace this crossing with a bridge. US Forest Service will take the lead in preparing the project's federal permits. NNSL will prepare the county land-use form, ODFW fish passage permit, secure state ESA coverage for fish salvage and file and complete BOLI compliance forms. Tillamook County Public Works has provided survey work, design review, and will provide construction oversight site survey and construction easements with affected landowners. OWEB funds will be used toward contracted construction services, project management and grant administration.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will provide ecological benefit for Oregon coast coho and other aquatic species, including Chinook and steelhead. There are three miles of cool water refugia habitat upstream of the crossing slated for replacement.
- Replacement of this crossing with a structure designed to Aquatic Organism Passage standards will address a priority fish passage issue. The structure ranked #13 out of 93 barriers identified in the Salmon SuperHwy project list.
- The project is a priority for Tillamook County and is an important access route for many landowners and a large dairy. Replacing the crossing will have social benefits, including emergency access and safety.
- The project has strong partnerships and the design process included consultation with the appropriate entities.

- The applicant has a proven track record by successfully implementing at least seven similar projects in recent years.

Concerns

- The design approach seems construction heavy, the application would benefit from more detail about why the chosen approach is necessary.
- The design provided with the application shows the streambed work tying into a natural wood/riffle at the downstream end. It is unclear how this structure would hold up over time and whether its eventual mobility would compromise the rest of the streambed design.

Concluding Analysis

The project will address an identified barrier to fish passage in a priority location with a design that adheres to commonly accepted Aquatic Organism Passage standards. The project designers indicated that recent design revisions addressed the concern related to tying into the natural wood structure at the downstream end. There is a high likelihood that the project team can implement a successful project as proposed to achieve the stated ecological outcomes.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$268,368

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$268,368

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1001-16352

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: North Creek Aquatic Organism
Passage Restoration

Applicant: MidCoast WC

Region: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$370,174

Total Cost: \$1,084,724

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project will replace the only culvert crossing on a fish bearing stream in North Creek, a tributary to Drift Creek and the Siletz River. The current 12' culvert was installed in the 1950's, and its dimensions measure to approximately one third of current standards for culverts. It is severely undersized and failing: The culvert was identified as a fish passage issue in 1961 by the Oregon Fish Commission because it is a complete barrier to juvenile fish passage, and a partial barrier to adult coho salmon, cutthroat, and steelhead trout. Additionally, its close proximity to the confluence of Drift Creek, 750 feet upstream, blocks passage for Pacific lamprey, amphibians, and aquatic invertebrates to most of the North Creek basin. The new culvert will be a 50-foot wide, 15-foot-tall open bottom culvert set on concrete footings that will meet all federal and state fish passage requirements. The culvert will allow full upstream access to 3.4 miles of Oregon Coast coho salmon habitat, including 2.37 miles designated critical habitat, 5.4 miles of winter steelhead habitat, and 13 miles of sea-run cutthroat trout habitat. North Creek flows in its full extent through a watershed managed by the US Forest Service as a late successional reserve. Consequently, access will be provided to great juvenile rearing habitat with large pools, naturally recruited large woody debris, excellent shade cover, and cold water refugia sites. Project partners include the MidCoast WC, Salmon Drift Creek WC, USFS (Hebo Ranger District), Native Fish Society, Trout Unlimited Blue Backs Chapter, Drift Creek Camp, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District, ODFW/ODOT, and potentially (applications submitted) USFWS, The Nature Conservancy and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The North Creek crossing has been recognized as a priority for fish passage restoration for decades. Replacing this crossing will restore passage to a significant amount of habitat for a diversity of aquatic species.
- The project is supported by a partnership with engagement from the public, the Drift Creek Camp, and appropriate agencies. As a main user of the road, the Drift Creek Camp is an active partner and accepts the need to close the camp during construction. This avoids the need for a bypass, which saves a substantial amount in construction costs.
- There has been progress made in recent years with regards to design improvement, partnership building, and fundraising for the project. The effort is now poised for implementation.
- The riparian habitat upstream of the crossing is in federal ownership and designated as Late Successional Reserve.

- The applicant has capacity to complete the work and a successful track record of implementing similar projects.
- The designs are well-considered and adhere to commonly accepted standards of Aquatic Organism Passage.

Concerns

- When compared to the reference site, the proposed design for the streambed construction has comparably few steps and pools planned at longer distances. Providing additional steps for grade control consistent with the reference site is a preferable approach.

Concluding Analysis

Improving passage at the North Creek culvert has long been a priority for fish and wildlife agencies, and the project has generated significant public support from anglers. A strong partnership has developed between the associated agencies, road users, and organizations, thus improving the project's likelihood of success. The technically sound design for the replacement structure and associated streambed work will address passage problems to a significant amount of stream habitat. Concerns about the streambed grade control design, which appeared to conflict with reference site conditions as shown in the hydrology assessment, were addressed by the applicant and project designers. The project design plan now has a decreased interval between grade control structures by constructing additional steps without increasing the cost to OWEB.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$370,174

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$370,174

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1002-16361

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Mill Creek Fish Passage Project

Applicant: Tillamook Bay WC

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$547,616

Total Cost: \$773,216

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project proposes to replace two undersized road crossings and enhance riparian habitat on an unnamed tributary, Tributary B, of Mill Creek in the Trask River basin, Tillamook Bay watershed. The project site is 5 miles from the town of Tillamook in Tillamook County. The road crossings are in close proximity (200 yards) and both have been identified as high priorities for replacement in order to: 1) restore passage to 1.9 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook, coho, Pacific lamprey, steelhead and cutthroat trout; 2) restore watershed function and natural channel processes, and 3) improve County road infrastructure by reducing local flooding. The lower crossing is on County owned Brickyard Road and sits on two undersized and perched concrete culverts with trash-racks that clog with debris and can temporarily block the stream. The upstream crossing is a private driveway with two undersized culverts. Bridge installations are proposed for both sites. These projects address the only road/stream barriers in Tributary B. Riparian enhancement is proposed for both banks on a quarter-mile stream reach and along the shoreline of Christie Pond. Project partners include US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Tillamook County Public Works Department, the Christie family, Salmon Super Highway and Pelican Brewing.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Mill Creek is a priority basin for restoration work in the Trask River watershed. This creek has unusual riparian vegetation complexity, a high incidence of beaver activity, and a range of flow conditions that provides a diversity of instream habitat.
- The project is designated a priority for the Salmon Superhwy.
- Substantial beaver activity in the basin provides an increased level of habitat complexity that has potential to provide rearing habitat for coho.
- The long term family landowners are invested in the ecological health of their property and are supportive of riparian restoration.
- The project is supported by a strong partnership.
- There is connectivity with other restoration projects in the Mill Creek basin.

Concerns

- There is a concrete dam structure a few hundred feet upstream of the project location that impounds water for the landowner's pond. Fish passage at the dam has not been well assessed and it is

unclear whether juvenile coho and other aquatic species are able to pass it. ODFW data indicates coho distribution ends at this dam.

- The project application refers to the dam as a potential subsequent project phase, but details are not provided. The application would benefit from more concrete information about plans to address the barrier or the inclusion of data that provides evidence for upstream fish passage at that location.
- The project cost is high, especially considering that passage at the dam site has not been assessed.
- The project is designed to accommodate a higher stream channel capacity for larger flows compared to initial design calculations done by the USFS. As a result, the project increased in cost and the design incorporates heavy rock in the streambed to accommodate the larger capacity. It is unclear whether this higher design standard is necessary or justified given the resulting need to use larger sized rock that may be difficult to permit.
- The proposed design fails to address the likely stream elevation changes that will occur due to the work at the crossing, particularly with regards to the impounded area just upstream of the driveway crossing.

Concluding Analysis

The landowner's tolerance of beaver activity and willingness to conduct riparian habitat restoration on their property is appreciated. The uncertainty regarding fish passage at the dam and the increased cost associated with the design approach limits the project cost-effectiveness since it may not improve access to the two miles of stream habitat cited in the application. Project partners are encouraged to re-assess fish passage at the dam location and provide more information about the subsequent project phases, as well as reconsider the project design approach to find a potentially more cost effective alternative.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1003-16375

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Bummer Creek Stream, Floodplain, Wetland and Oak Savanna Restoration

Applicant: MidCoast WC

Region: North Coast

County: Benton

OWEB Request: \$220,056

Total Cost: \$373,863

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project is located approximately 1.5 miles south of the town of Alsea on Bummer Creek, the largest 4th order tributary of the South Fork Alsea River. Bummer Creek is designated a high priority "Anchor Habitat" for the recovery of listed Oregon Coast coho (OCC) within the Alsea basin. However, a BLM assessment ranked Bummer Creek as the most at-risk 6th field in the South Fork Alsea watershed. In response to the ranking, a 2005 OWEB funded Limiting Factors Analysis (LFA) was conducted at the location. The LFA identified two major co-limiting factors for coho production: 1) limited availability of high-quality spawning gravel, and 2) excessive summer temperatures. This project addresses both these issues using instream and riparian restoration techniques, including channel reconnection intended to re-link legacy oxbows to Bummer Creek that were previously isolated by historical farming practices, and the development of up to 180-foot riparian vegetation buffers. Additionally, this project will re-establish oak savanna, oak woodland and historic wetlands. Two wetland areas with hydric soils exhibit a pre-farming legacy of late season water storage prior to the development of artificial drainage networks. Oregon white oak and prairie species plantings will enhance a 300+ year old Oak grove at the site. These habitats may represent the western-most extent of oak habitat in the Coast Range, and present a unique opportunity to re-establish a plant community that has been virtually lost to agricultural development in the Coast Range. Joining OWEB and the landowners in this partnership are the Midcoast Watersheds Council (applicant), BLM, USFWS Finley National Wildlife Refuge, Benton SWCD, NRCS and the USFWS Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project involves a myriad of habitat types, and is well thought out and comprehensive.
- Broad partnerships are involved in implementing various project components with the appropriate level of expertise for each habitat type.
- Participation in the CREP program helps to ensure project success.
- The project presents an interesting opportunity to restore oak savannah, a rare habitat type in the coast range. The plan for oak savannah restoration seems straightforward and has a high likelihood of success.
- Reconnecting the oxbows may benefit both aquatic habitat and water quality.

- This reach of Bummer Creek is a high priority location for restoration benefiting salmonids, and the proposed work will have great benefit on instream habitat complexity. Coho are currently using the ditch system on the property, which will be restored into a more natural flow path within the project area.
- The landowners have the necessary equipment and capacity to maintain restoration work and are invested in a positive ecological outcome.

Concerns

- The goal of the proposed wetland work and expected ecological benefit is unclear from the application. The wetland work will involve a significant amount of disturbance and cost for only a marginal ecological benefit. Due to the history of diking and ditching on the property, any created wetlands are unlikely to be highly functioning. As a result of this uncertainty for success, this project component has limited cost-effectiveness.
- One of the proposed locations for a created wetland would be challenging to maintain given the site hydrology.
- The use of standpipes to control water levels is not a preferred approach.
- The restoration plan seems segmented, for example, the fencing plan does not align with the mapped habitat polygons. Since the fence bisects the oak savanna restoration, it is unclear how this habitat will be managed on both sides of the CREP fence.
- There is no irrigation proposed for the plantings, which may be important for successful plant establishment.
- The application would benefit from more information about the proposed use of herbicides and the various alternatives for site preparation that were considered.
- The Bummer Creek channel is significantly incised and more intervention than what is proposed might be needed to address the ongoing incision.
- The application would benefit from additional information on the plan for tree thinning in the upland forest and a justification for the creation of meadows in this habitat type.

Concluding Analysis

This multi-faceted project will provide ecological benefit to a diversity of habitat types with restoration and enhancement actions planned for instream, riparian, wetland, and upland habitats. The project has connectivity to other nearby restoration work in the Bummer Creek basin, and the instream habitat and floodplain re-connection may have an exponential positive impact due to similar work on adjacent stream reaches. In particular, the oxbow reconnection work and large wood placement project components have a high potential to benefit aquatic species using the creek by increasing habitat complexity.

Participation in the CREP program signifies a broader partnership and a landowner commitment to achieving the stated ecological outcomes.

Any benefits generated from the two created wetlands would be marginal in comparison with the cost and level of disturbance necessary to accomplish this portion of the work.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$193,366

Review Team Conditions

Exclude wetland and stand-pipe components of project and revise budget accordingly.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$193,366

Staff Conditions

Exclude wetland and stand-pipe components of project and revise budget accordingly.

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1004-16392

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Mill/Slack Creeks Riparian Enhancement Project and Tide Gate Removal

Applicant: Lincoln SWCD

Region: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$40,334

Total Cost: \$81,321

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project is located at the head of tide water (~river mile 1.2) on Mill and Slack Creeks in the Yaquina watershed. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has recognized a "potential concern" from elevated summer temperatures in Mill Creek. The project property is actively grazing cows and there is a lack of native vegetation within the riparian areas. There is a subsided pasture within the tidally influenced area on Mill Creek that has a tidegate blocking tidal flux to 2.6 acres of wetland. This project will remove the tidegate and dike restoring tidal influence to the 2.6 acres of wetland. Dike and tidegate removal will improve access for fish and add 2.6 acres of estuarine habitat for aquatic species. This project will also prepare, plant, protect, and maintain native trees and shrubs on 4.8 acres of riparian area. Maintenance and release of the plantings is scheduled for three years and effectiveness monitoring will take place annually to document survival rates for riparian plantings. The project partners are: the landowner, Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District, The Siuslaw Collaborative Watershed Restoration Program, and Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is in a high priority location on Mill Creek to provide benefits for fish, especially coho and chum.
- Estuarine habitat is a priority habitat type for restoration in this region, and removing the tide gate will restore tidal influence to 2.6 acres. This portion of the project is straightforward, technically sound, and cost-effective.
- The project addresses known limiting factors in the watershed by improving water temperature and habitat complexity.
- The applicant addressed concerns with plant maintenance from a previous application by increasing the level of stewardship proposed for the site.

Concerns

- The fencing plan has not changed from the last application, and the plan to use blackberry and other features, such as cut banks, to close off the fence and exclude the livestock is not a technically sound approach. Blackberry and cut banks are not stable fencing. To have a measurable impact on water quality, livestock should be effectively excluded from the stream and riparian areas to allow new riparian plantings to establish successfully.

- Site preparation proposed for planting directly into the blackberries is not sufficient considering the level of infestation.
- The proposed project uses potted willow stock, which seems unnecessary given the high success rate and ready availability of willow stakes on the coast.

Concluding Analysis

The project site is in a priority location for the mid-Coast because Mill Creek has the most stable chum population in the localized region. However, the proposed fencing plan will still allow cattle to access the stream, threatening water quality and putting the new riparian planting at risk. While the current number of cattle on the property is low, it is possible the numbers of livestock will fluctuate on the site in the future. As a result, the project is likely to fall short in addressing water quality issues as proposed. The applicant is encouraged to seek small grant funding for the estuarine habitat project components, which will provide ecological high value and has a high likelihood of success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1005-16353

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Waite Ranch TA 2018

Applicant: McKenzie River Trust

Region: North Coast

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$46,436

Total Cost: \$173,612

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Waite Ranch Tidal Wetland Restoration Project's goal is to restore historic tidal exchange between the Siuslaw River and the interior of the Waite Ranch Property. The 217 acre Waite Ranch property is located in western Lane County 4 miles east of the city of Florence. The property's southern boundary is the Siuslaw River and the entire property drains into the river via a tidegate near its western (downstream) tip. The property is entirely diked preventing daily tidal inundation. The site has a preliminary restoration design, and by October of 2018, the project design will be at 60% completion. This TA grant funding, combined with other pending grants will allow for the project to complete the final design, including drawings and technical specifications. The OWEB TA grant funds will specifically be used for further geotechnical assessment associated with a setback levee's connection to the Highway 126 embankment and other highway protection features. This work will build off of a current engineering alternative analysis examining both habitat and cost considerations of Highway 126 protection features. This OWEB TA funding will produce a geotechnical assessment report that will support the final design, and will be the final geotechnical work required for this project. Project partners include the SWC, the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, Ecotrust, USFWS, ODOT, and NOAA.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The resulting restoration project will restore 217 acres of estuarine habitat in a priority system of the Siuslaw watershed and North Coast basin.
- The project site has connectivity to other conservation properties in the Siuslaw estuary, and restoration at this site could be a pathway to other restoration opportunities.
- Restoring estuarine habitats is a priority for Oregon coast coho, which will benefit from the return of tidal hydrology to the project site. The Strategic Action Plan for coho developed for the Siuslaw identifies restoration at Waite Ranch as a high priority and it will benefit salmonids long term.
- The application is well written; it includes thorough information on the project's long history and documents recent progress the project partners made in moving toward a restoration design solution.
- Recent developments with project partners, including the Coho Business Planning process and the engagement of the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians have renewed momentum and increased the likelihood of success.

Concerns

- The project has a long history due to challenges in identifying a design solution that balances site constraints from nearby property owners and ODOT concerns. During previous project planning efforts, ODOT expressed late in the process that any highway subsidence is not acceptable. As a result, the applicant had to reconsider design alternatives that incorporate more costly infrastructure to protect the highway. The lack of clarity in communications with ODOT regarding design requirements has caused the applicant to return for an additional technical assistance design project. This uncertainty in determining a specific design option that addresses all the concerns at this site creates a degree of risk for the resulting restoration project.
- The design approach preferred by the applicant, identified as Option 4 in the application, may not be technically sound and could cause further scouring and erosion of the road bed. A softer approach is preferred for the project to provide a cost effective watershed benefit.

Concluding Analysis

The Waite Ranch project continues to be a high priority for the region and the Siuslaw watershed. With the potential to create over 200 acres of estuarine habitat, the project has been identified as a priority in numerous plans and assessments, including the recent Coho Business Plan effort in the watershed. The project has a degree of risk due to the challenge of providing protection for neighboring landowners and the adjacent highway. However, the renewed momentum on behalf of the applicant, as well as an expansion of the partners involved with the project, has resulted in an increased likelihood for success. This technical assistance funding may finally facilitate a commitment to a design option that will result in timely project implementation of a high priority restoration effort with significant cost benefit for the ecological gains if funding for highway protection can be secured.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$46,436

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$46,436

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1006-16358

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Yaquina Bay Native Olympia Oyster Restoration Project

Applicant: Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

Region: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$49,945

Total Cost: \$89,595

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Despite the numerous ecosystem services provided by oysters, such as water filtration and fisheries enhancement, the only oyster species native to the West Coast, the Olympia oyster, is functionally extinct. While there has been a significant interest in the restoration of this species, the factors limiting successful restoration have not been determined. Using an estuarine gradient as proxy for salinity, predation, competition, and larval retention we propose to determine the upper and lower boundaries of successful Olympia oyster restoration in the Yaquina Bay, near the city of Newport in Lincoln County, OR. Eighteen sampling apparatuses will be spread along an estuarine gradient, from Kings Slough (~33 ppt) to the Toledo Airport (< 5 ppt) measuring growth rates, settlement rates, and survivorship of juvenile and adult Olympia oysters. Data from this TA will inform a long-term plan for the restoration of the Olympia oyster in the Yaquina Bay. Results will aid in a spatially based restoration plan focusing on optimal areas for restoration regardless of ownership or current land use. Through willing landowners and partners, such as Oregon Oyster Farms, Kings Estuary Shellfish, The Wetlands Conservancy, and the Ports of Toledo and Newport, we will also highlight areas where we predict restoration success can occur and ownership/access is currently available. Through additional partners, such as Oregon State University and the coast-wide native Olympia oyster network, this TA will provide much needed information to inform restoration planning and ground truth larval retention models, allowing for restoration projects to be planned even under future climate-change scenarios.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project has a strong partnership and is affiliated with a regional west coast program, which broadens the applicability of the information to be collected. Letters of support were numerous and well written.
- There is limited information available on restoration of habitat for native oysters within the North Coast basin; the data collected will fill a known data gap.
- Oysters are a critical component of the food web in estuaries that is often overlooked. Restoration of native oyster populations could have long term benefits to water quality in the Yaquina watershed.
- Project implementation is timely because it will complement other data models developed by DEQ and help inform other work linking ocean conditions to estuaries.
- The application budget is straightforward and thorough.
- The applicant has capacity to complete the work with an experienced shellfish biologist on staff.

Concerns

- The methods to collect grab samples once a month may not provide effective data, continuous monitoring would likely be more useful.
- It is unclear whether using estuarine gradient as a proxy is the best practice.
- The monitoring plan includes a number of factors that have significant variability. The application would benefit from more clarification as to how these factors will effectively link up and inform the restoration plan. There appears to be a disconnect between the modeling and data collection and the restoration plan development, with some uncertainty about how the two project components will unite.
- The application contains limited detail about the work that OSU will do on the project, and the accompanying letter of support provided from the university does not elaborate on these complementary actions.

Concluding Analysis

Restoring native Olympia oysters to the Yaquina estuary may improve water quality, estuarine health, and overall biodiversity - and the application makes a case for increasing efforts focused on restoration of this important component of the food web. The project has built strong partnerships with both local shellfish farms and broader regional research entities involved. The monitoring plan methodology for collecting data to inform the prioritization and restoration planning project components has some unclear logic. Given the experience and capacity levels of the applicant and project partners, there is a likelihood of success for the stated project outcomes to be achieved.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$49,945

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1007-16365

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Fishhawk Lake Replacement Fish Passage Construction Design

Applicant: Upper Nehalem WC

Region: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$68,202

Total Cost: \$96,115

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The existing fish ladder at Fishhawk Lake does not meet current fish passage standards. As part of the overall watershed program, replacing the fish ladder is high priority. The Upper Nehalem Watershed Council (UNWC) and its partner, Fishhawk Lake Reserve and Community (FLRC), have been on a mission to enhance the watershed and the ecological stability of the migrating species for the last six years. In addition to improving stream habitat in the area, it has defined a water supply and quality enhancement project (Gated Spillway) and the subsequent Replacement Fish Ladder project to work in conjunction to restore the Fishhawk section of the overall watershed. Fishhawk Creek and Fishhawk Lake, in the Nehalem sub-basin of the North Coast Basin in Clatsop and Columbia Counties, has cold water species of Steelhead, Pacific Lamprey, Coastal Cutthroat Trout and the endangered Coho Salmon. Each species has different upstream and downstream migration patterns, fish passage and spawning requirements as well as optimum water temperature and oxygenation requirements. Poor water quality (above normal water temperature and turbidity, and poor oxygenation) in the creek and lake, and the challenge of traversing an outdated fish ladder to migrate contributes to poor survival rates. This fish ladder design replacement project creates a new fish passage that significantly improves juvenile survival and improves passage for each of the species. The design builds upon the separate major water quality endeavor already underway in partnership with UNWC. Together these projects create a more functional, healthier aquatic and migration environment in the creek and lake. This TA application is only for the fish ladder replacement construction design which must interface with the water supply and quality enhancement project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Fish passage at the project location is a priority for the regional ODFW office, and this project will address a longstanding issue at the dam. The current ladder is a partial barrier for adult fish and has poor or limited juvenile passage.
- The FLRC has been and continues to be a committed and willing partner in this endeavor.
- The application documents the project history and provides updated information requested in past project reviews, including water quality data.
- The project connects to other restoration efforts, including restoration work in the upper watershed and an upstream Strategic Implementation Area.

Concerns

- The sluiceway design proposed for the dam and its potential negative impacts on downstream habitat remains a concern for the project to successfully provide ecological benefits from this investment.
- Water quality in the lake will continue to be an issue for fish despite passage improvements. Temperatures in the lake are significantly higher than adjacent streams, and the project, as designed, is unlikely to address this important limiting factor for salmonids. The lake currently has lethal water temperatures for salmon in the summer.
- Proposed riprap installation to reduce water velocities could be problematic to fish, and may provide more of a dam maintenance benefit than a necessary component of fish passage.
- The project has a minimal conservation focus, improving the fish ladder at this location is intrinsically tied to the accompanying dam repair. It is unclear how the fish ladder and dam spillway components are being addressed separately or what the outcome would be if only one of the project components received funding.
- The application would benefit from more discussion about the habitat conditions and quantity upstream to where access would be restored.
- NOAA and other appropriate fish passage agencies should be engaged before moving forward with any design alternative.

Concluding Analysis

Passage at the Fishhawk Dam has long been a priority and a concern of wildlife agencies due to the recognition that the current situation is less than ideal. The approach of decoupling the fish passage from the dam spillway work may result in an effective project funding strategy; however, it adds uncertainty about how the two aspects of the project would be designed and implemented since these two project components are inextricably linked. While improving fish passage at this structure is desired, the project appears to be more of a dam repair and recreation project than a watershed restoration project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1008-16383

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Rock Creek Restoration TA

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$12,954

Total Cost: \$66,580

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project is located on Rock Creek, a tributary to the Nehalem River, and is outside the city of Vernonia in Columbia County. A limiting factor analysis (LFA) has been conducted in the watershed (Trask et al 2011). These analyses have identified numerous habitat issues in lower Rock Creek including decreased floodplain connectivity, degraded riparian corridors, simplification of stream habitat, and reduced large wood inputs. Additionally, this section of Rock Creek is listed by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as a 303(D) impaired water body for elevated temperatures, impacting rearing and spawning salmon. The proposed restoration actions look to address these issues by re-vegetating the adjacent riparian area and floodplain, grading unnaturally steepened banks, and adding edge-oriented large wood structures. The recovery of riparian canopy through extensive planting will strengthen bank cohesion, reduce solar radiation reaching the stream, and provide sources for large wood recruitment in the long term. The design of the bank reconstruction will focus on improved off-channel habitat and floodplain reconnection. The large wood placement will encourage the development of off-channel habitat, providing lateral margins where juvenile fish can find flow refuge during winter high flows. This proposal for Technical Assistance requests funds to support cultural resource survey required for USACE 404 permitting, and supplemental funding for project design and Columbia SWCD staff project management time. The deliverables will be the cultural resource survey report and the 50% design drawings. The Columbia SWCD is partnering with NOAA, NFWF, and the Wild Salmon Center on this project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The resulting restoration project will provide ecological benefit by addressing limiting factors for lower Columbia salmonids, including habitat connectivity and complexity.
- The restoration work resulting from the technical assistance may have a positive impact on key water quality parameters, including temperature and sedimentation.
- The project designs, which have already been completed, appear reasonable and are technically sound.
- Completing the cultural resource work will help get the designs to completion and enable implementation, for which funding is already positioned.
- Project partnerships are well developed with the appropriate people and expertise involved.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

This request for technical assistance will provide necessary cultural resource work and is an important step to arriving at permit-ready designs for this project. The preliminary project design appears straightforward and clearly addresses limiting factors in the region.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$12,954

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1009-16402

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Lower Columbia Chum SAP

Applicant: North Coast WS Assn

Region: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$74,465

Total Cost: \$110,369

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project will create a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) detailing restoration locations and projects required to address chum salmon limiting factors related to spawning habitat and estuary rearing habitat. Columbia River Chum Salmon are a federally-listed species and their recovery is a priority for Oregon's Conservation and Recovery Program. No plan currently exists targeting chum restoration in the region. With the specificities of chum distribution, a plan is necessary to prioritize projects within crucial reaches for chum habitat that are currently overlooked by the coho-driven restoration plans. We need to identify priority areas for chum that target unique reaches not currently slated for restoration. Creating this plan is essential for a targeted effort at reaching delisting criteria for chum salmon in the Coastal Stratum. And, while they occupy some unique reaches, chum projects will create ecosystem uplift and benefit other species in multiple ways. The Lower Columbia Chum Recovery Partnership includes the North Coast Watershed Association (NCWA), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Lewis and Clark National Historical Park (LEWI), the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP), and the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST). Together we have identified the following goals for our project:

Ecological outputs from restoration actions:

- Decreased sedimentation into spawning areas
- Improved gravel retention
- Increased channel complexity
- Improved floodplain connectivity
- Increased abundance of spawning habitat
- Anthropogenic migration barriers addressed
- Reconnect tidal habitat through dike and levy breaching
- Revegetation of tidal habitat
- Increase structure as needed

Ecological outcomes from restoration actions:

- 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
- Increased marine survival of fry in the estuary

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Developing a Strategic Action Plan for chum recovery will fill a critical planning gap. The current ODFW document, on which this effort will build, does not include details on habitat restoration.
- The proposed planning is timely because of chum reintroduction work actively underway in the Lower Columbia watershed.
- Priority basins have been identified as part of the ODFW chum reintroduction plan, and the proposed technical assistance will build on existing groundwork to begin a strategic planning effort.
- The applicant has a successful track record with similar work and the partnership is well developed with the capacity to succeed in meeting the project objectives.

- Projects that benefit chum have the potential to benefit other species as well in this watershed, including Pacific lamprey.

Concerns

- The project overlaps and coincides with the accompanying Stakeholder Engagement grant application, and it is unclear whether some budget costs between the two projects are possibly duplicative.

Concluding Analysis

There is a need for a strategic action plan for chum recovery in the Lower Columbia and this project will fill an important gap necessary to move forward with habitat restoration focused on the species. The partnership assembled appeared well organized and committed to chum recovery in the watershed. It is unclear how this project interfaces with the accompanying Stakeholder Engagement grant from the applicant that will allow the applicant to work simultaneously on landowner outreach during the Strategic Action Plan's development. Overall, engaging in activities proposed in each application is an appropriate approach for the projects to successfully accomplish their goals.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,465

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$74,465

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1010-16380

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Bayview Oxbow

Applicant: The Wetlands Conservancy

Region: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$23,975

Total Cost: \$31,705

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1. Bayview Oxbow is a former tidal wetland, originally connected directly to the Alsea River Estuary, in Waldport, Lincoln County Oregon. 2. Currently, the Oxbow is separated from the Estuary by levees and only minimally connected to tidal exchange through culverts. The Wetlands Conservancy acquired a substantial fraction of the Oxbow in 2009. In 2010, TWC did a feasibility analysis to assess the feasibility of re-connecting the Oxbow to Alsea Bay to restore tidal wetland function and to improve habitat. The report provided a preliminary assessment of the feasibility of two restoration alternatives as compared to taking no action. The two restoration alternatives consisted of re-connecting just the Oxbow's west side, which is largely owned by the Conservancy, or, if additional property or easements are acquired, reconnecting both sides of the Oxbow. TWC's preferred alternative is Option B.3. The Wetlands Conservancy will work with adjacent neighbors to develop a long-term conservation strategy for long term protection and enhancement of Bayview Oxbow. The desired outcome will be commitment letters from adjacent neighbors for future TWC fee title or conservation easement acquisition. 4. Partners: Adjacent landowners Lincoln County and City of Waldport Federal and State Fish and Wildlife management agencies.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The outreach approach described in the application takes a long term view of conservation ownership in the area. The project will result in an overall strategy and road map to achieving larger landscape level goals in this localized area.
- Tidal marsh habitat is a priority habitat for restoration work in the North Coast basin, and this project will pursue opportunities to restore and connect estuarine habitat.
- The application demonstrates that the project partners understand the complexities involved and due diligence necessary to arrive at a successful land acquisition project. The proposed approach takes into account the time and forethought needed to achieve the goals.

Concerns

- The project deliverables are not specific and the application would benefit from more information about the type of outreach to be done.
- The objectives stated in the application are not measurable.

- The number of landowners to be engaged is unclear. There are a large amount of rural residential landowners in the project area and a significant amount of site constraints to restoring the entirety of the Bayview Oxbow.
- The map of the surrounding area appears incomplete and has limited detail. Tax lot information for the entire target area would have been helpful in evaluating the application.

Concluding Analysis

This application is a more recent iteration of a previously funded technical assistance grant that focused on restoring tidal hydrology to another portion of the Bayview Oxbow. With this stakeholder engagement effort, a more long-term conservation strategy will be pursued in the area that will likely result in a landscape level restoration approach. Estuarine habitat is a priority for restoration and conservation in this part of the state and is one of the more complex habitat types in which to work due to site constraints and the dramatic hydrologic changes that can ensue. With the proposed project approach, the applicant is taking the time necessary to work with landowners and complete the due diligence necessary to arrive at a successful outcome. More details on the deliverables and objectives would strengthen the application, but the project team is likely to successfully implement this engagement effort and achieve the stated outcomes.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$23,975

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1011-16405

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Lower Columbia Chum Landowner Outreach

Applicant: North Coast WS Assn

Region: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$42,312

Total Cost: \$56,845

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project will conduct landowner outreach necessary to implementing the Lower Columbia Chum SAP. Restoration work on privately owned land is both a significant challenge and a critical element to future habitat restoration projects in our work area. Big Creek and Youngs Bay chum populations have been prioritized for restoration in the Chum Recovery Strategy - a supplement to the federal and state Recovery Plans. These locations have historically large numbers of chum, fairly good habitat, less permanent infrastructure than other stratus, and small current returns, which makes them a perfect place to invest in restoration. These areas are prime for restoration, but one of the biggest challenges that we face is landowner outreach. In order for large-scale restoration to occur, we need willingness and cooperation from many small landowners. This project will give us the time to invest in these landowner conversations in prioritized reaches through targeted mailers, community meetings, watershed council networking, participant surveys, site-visits, and landowner agreements. This project is timely due to the opportunity to coordinate with our strategic action plan development. Our partnership's development of a chum SAP makes this a particularly good time to invest in outreach. By investing in outreach before the SAP is completed, we are able to engage landowners in the development process and incorporate landowner willingness into our project prioritization, dramatically increasing our chances of successfully implementing the strategic plan. This project identifies willing landowners in high priority restoration reaches identified through the Lower Columbia Chum SAP. The outcome of this project will be securing landowner agreements for implementing strategically identified restoration projects in prioritized chum habitats and creating a strategy and materials to continue the landowner outreach conversation in these reaches after the grant closes.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This stakeholder engagement effort complements the technical assistance application received by the same applicant. The approach of doing both the plan development and stakeholder engagement work concurrently is thoughtful and will increase the likelihood of securing restoration opportunities identified by the technical assistance work.
- This project proposes beginning stakeholder engagement activities at an appropriate and critical time. The plan for engagement is well planned and specific information on outreach actions and deliverables is included.
- The project has a broad partnership, and the scope and expertise of the members is balanced and appropriate.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified during review.

Concluding Analysis

The approach of engaging in both technical planning and stakeholder engagement as concurrent activities builds on the value in engaging landowners early on and will only help increase the likelihood of success of the complementary Technical Assistance grant. The partnership has momentum towards implementing chum recovery in the Lower Columbia watershed, and the outreach strategy has been well considered. The project partners have capacity to achieve the stated landowner engagement objectives in priority watersheds, and subsequently begin to implement projects benefitting chum.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$42,312

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$42,312

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1012-16413

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Outreach Plan Implementation

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$18,310

Total Cost: \$23,090

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The watershed council has increased its capacity for strategic planning in the form of an outreach plan and action plan. These two products are reflective of renewed desire to capture community interest in watershed related topics including restoration project development. Proposal provides additional resources to implement outreach plan that defines a range of outreach activities geared toward new partnerships with local community groups and individual landowners. This includes exploration of areas with particular socio-economic interest with upriver private timber companies and lower watershed agricultural activities. Funds will be used to support time and materials needed for effective stakeholder engagement. Outcome of efforts will lead to increased interest in watershed restoration activities and restoration project opportunities. Project partners include local drainage district, timber companies, and Columbia Soil and Water Conservation district.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The stakeholder engagement project may capitalize on recent restoration momentum within the Lower Columbia watershed.

Concerns

- The application has limited detail and does not contain contextual information about the watershed to understand the need for increased stakeholder engagement in the region. The Abstract lacks information about project location.
- The application is unclear, hard to follow, and lacks quantifiable objectives.
- There are no indicators of success described and the engagement strategies are not well defined.
- Only one specific geographic location is identified and no details are provided about why this location was chosen for a focus.
- An outreach strategy is referred to in the application but it is not included and details on the scope and scale of the proposed activities are not provided.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed activities do not directly link with a specific geography as required with Stakeholder

Engagement grants. One sub-watershed, Beaver Creek, is mentioned, but no details are given as to how the watershed was chosen or what specific actions would take place there.

The applicant is encouraged to complete an outreach strategy before pursuing a Stakeholder Engagement grant. If this application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to include information on the necessary pathway to achieving ecological objectives and provide detail on why the outreach is necessary, including explanation for the chosen location and the proposed timeframe.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

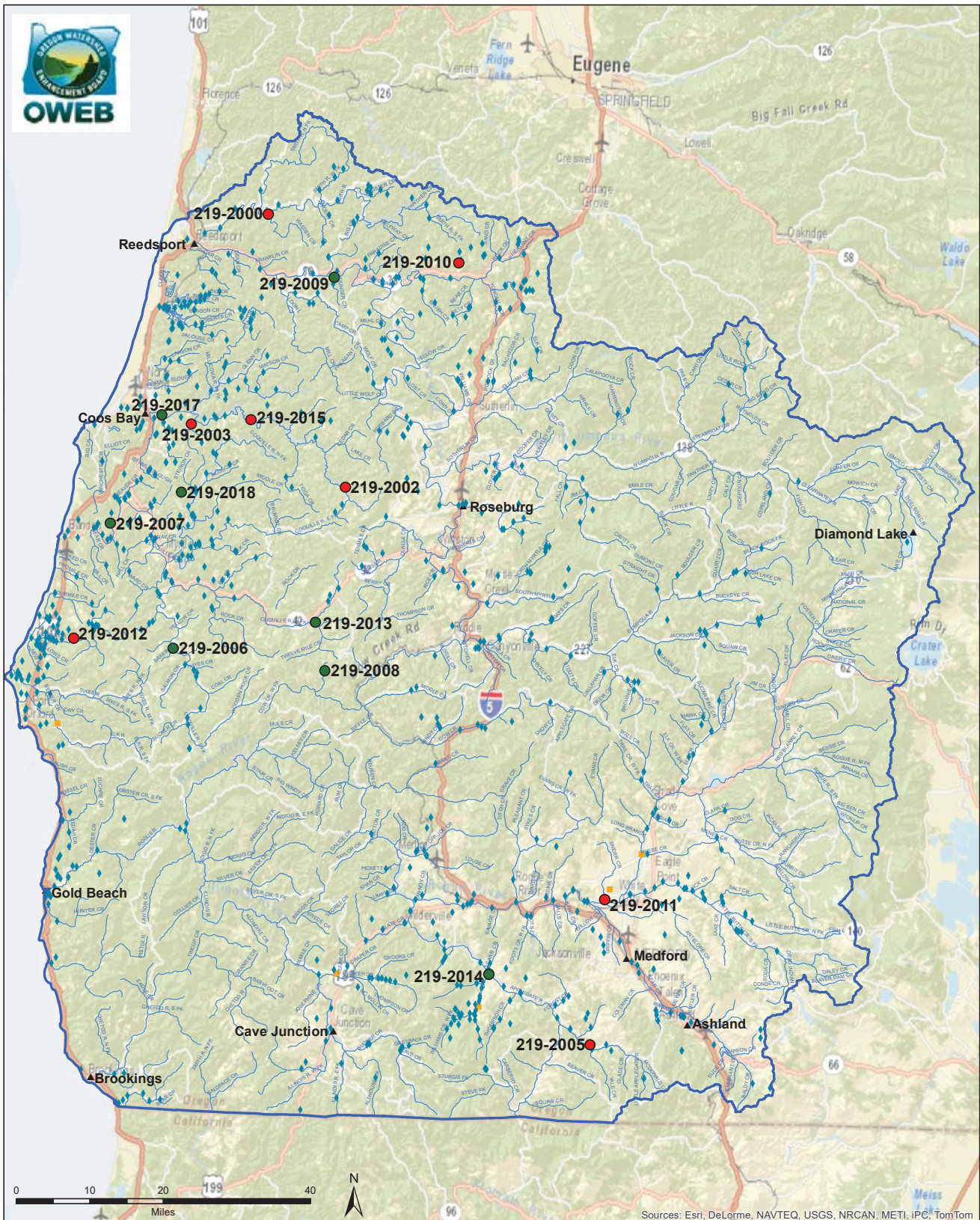
Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Southwest - Region 2 Spring 2018 Funding Recommendations



Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, NRCAN, METI, IPC, TomTom

Document Path: Z:\oweb\Technical_Services\Information_Services\GIS\Maps\Review Team Meetings\2018SpringCycle\Projects\Region2_AppFundingStatus_11x17_2018Spring.mxd

ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB- PK Wils 20180925

Funding Recommendations

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

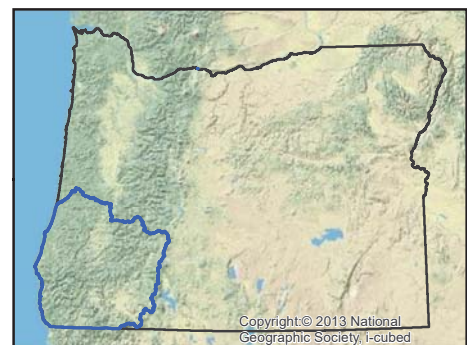
Previous Grants - 1998-2017

- ◆ Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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Region 2 - Southwest Oregon

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|--------------------|---------|
| 219-2007 | Coquille Watershed Association | Seestrom Tidelands Restoration | Tidal wetlands will be restored by replacing failing tidegates, reconstructing diked tidal channels, and planting native vegetation. As a result, Coho salmon will have access to an additional 270 acres of critical winter habitat on a working ranch. | 808,600 | Coos |
| 219-2006 | Coquille Watershed Association | Baker Creek Fish Passage Restoration | A failing culvert located near Powers will be replaced to open migratory fish passage in a restored stream channel with enhanced habitat. | 685,573 | Coos |
| 219-2008 | Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers | Steelhead Creek Culvert Replacement and Stream Enhancement | Habitat for native fish will be improved at 31 sites along 1.25 miles of Steelhead Creek near Glendale. Fish passage will also be improved by replacing a culvert that is a barrier to fish migration. | 170,689 | Douglas |
| 219-2009 | Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers | Butler/Lutsinger Instream Restoration | Using a helicopter and an excavator to place 588 logs in Butler and Lutsinger Creeks near Roseburg, the project will result in 5.5 miles of improved native fish habitat. | 312,216 | Douglas |
| Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff | | | | 1,977,078 | |

Restoration Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order

| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---|---|--------------------|---------|
| 219-2010 | Elk Creek WC | Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks Restoration | Located near Drain, this project will restore 12 acres of riparian area through invasive species removal, planting native vegetation, and fencing. Instream habitat will be restored by placing 67 fish habitat structures along 3 miles of Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks. | 328,009 | Douglas |
| 219-2005 | Applegate Partnership, Inc. | Upper Phillips Dam Fish Passage and Irrigation Efficiency Project | The project will restore fish passage at Upper Phillips Dam; install a new headgate and fish screen; and conserve water through piping 1.4 miles of irrigation ditch that serves 10 small farms near Ruch. | 220,681 | Jackson |
| 219-2000 | Smith River WC | Lower Wasson Creek Riparian Restoration | By removing invasive blackberry and planting native trees, the project will restore riparian habitat on 17.7 acres of Wasson Creek, located near Reedsport. | 81,785 | Douglas |

Region 2 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

| Restoration Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order Continued | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 219-2003 | Coos Watershed Association | Daniels Creek Riparian Restoration Project | Through planting and fencing 2,300 feet of stream bank, the project will restore important habitat for native fish on Daniels Creek, located near Coos Bay. The stream bank will be planted with native trees and shrubs that will stabilize the bank, shade out invasive reed canary grass, improve water quality, and decrease stream temperatures. | 108,203 | Coos |
| 219-2002 | Coos Watershed Association | Williams River Quarry Falls Fish Passage Improvement | Fish passage will be improved by moving a road further away from the river bank at the Williams River Quarry Falls, located near Tenmile. As a result, the river will have access to a more natural stream channel. | 319,767 | Douglas |
| Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | 3,035,523 | |
| Restoration Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County | |
| 219-2001 | Coos Watershed Association | Marlow Creek Habitat Restoration | 355,157 | Coos | |
| 219-2004 | Applegate Partnership, Inc. | Laurel Slough Restoration Project | 72,966 | Josephine | |

Region 2 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

| Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 219-2014 | Applegate Partnership, Inc. | Lower Bridgepoint Dam Fish Passage Project | This project will result in engineered designs for fish passage improvement and irrigation efficiency at Lower Bridgepoint Dam, a channel-spanning, fish passage barrier at river mile 0.5 on Williams Creek located near Provolt. | 34,502 | Josephine |
| 219-2013 | Coquille Watershed Association | Twelvemile Creek Watershed Assessment and Project Development | Project partners will review watershed conditions in order to develop, prioritize, and design habitat/water quality enhancement projects in the Twelvemile Creek watershed, located near Camas Valley. | 42,092 | Douglas |
| 219-2017 | Coos Watershed Association | Coos Estuarine Wetland Restoration Project Designs | Project designs, permits, and funding proposals will be developed for wetland restoration projects in the following high priority areas: the Coos Bay estuary, Coos River, and the Catching Creek basin located near Coos Bay. | 55,868 | Coos |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff | | | | 132,462 | |
| Technical Assistance Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 219-2012 | Curry SWCD | Floras Creek Sediment Abatement Road Inventory | To improve water quality, the project will inventory sediment sources on 41 miles of both public and private roads used for forest and grazing access in the Floras Creek watershed near Langlois. Plans will be developed for pollution reduction techniques, including design specifications and cost estimates for implementation. | 25,300 | Curry |
| 219-2015 | Coos Watershed Association | South Fork Coos River Road Inventory and Sediment Reduction | To improve water quality in important stream habitat for native fish, the project will result in an inventory of sediment pollutions sources on approximately 240 miles of roads that drain directly to the South Fork Coos River. | 65,166 | Coos |
| 219-2011 | Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians | Cow Creek Umpqua Tribe Rogue River Restoration Project | Following a site investigation of nearly 2 miles of the Rogue River near Central Point, the project will result in a conceptual design to restore important fish habitat by addressing erosion, streamside vegetation, and access to the river's side channels. | 45,997 | Jackson |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | 268,925 | |
| Technical Assistance Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount Requested | County | |
| 219-2016 | South Umpqua Rural Community | Elkton Reserve Restoration Project | 53,149 | Douglas | |

Region 2 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|---|--|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 219-2018 | Coos Watershed Association | Coos-Coquille Comprehensive Tidegate Outreach | To develop options to address failing tidegates and loss of tidal wetlands, project partners will engage land owners in the Coos and Coquille watersheds by implementing a comprehensive outreach program providing non-regulatory “full-service” assistance. Additionally in the Coos watershed, outreach will include strategies recommended in the Coho business plan to improve habitat for Coho salmon. | 169,792 | Coos |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff | | | | 169,792 | |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County | |
| | | None | | | |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT | | | | 169,792 | |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County | |
| | | None | | | |
| Region 2 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award | | | | 2,279,332 | 24.70% |
| Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award | | | | 9,226,487 | |

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2000-16314

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower Wasson Creek Riparian
Restoration

Applicant: Smith River WC

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$81,785

Total Cost: \$168,287

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Wasson Creek drainage is located 15 miles NE of Reedsport OR and is majority federally owned and managed. The project area is located 19 miles up Smith River Rd, and occurs on private property bordered by the Siuslaw NF to the West, East and the South. The primary issue here is Riparian Process and Function. Multiple watershed and terrestrial functions will be benefited by addressing noxious weeds and restoring the riparian areas to native plant dominated forested lands. This project will remove and suppress Himalayan Blackberry (HBB) over 17.7 acres, by manual, mechanical and chemical means. Pretreatment will remove the bulk of the HBB biomass over a two year period. Larger tree stock will be planted, 2-3 foot stock. Post-planting treatments will be combined manual removal and herbicide treatments and will occur twice during year 3 and once for years 4-6. The need for subsequent treatments will be evaluated during years 5 and 6 to ensure escapement for plantings to the free to grow stage. SRWC and partners will continue to monitor plantings and treat HBB for a minimum for 4 years following tree planting. Project partners include: ODFW, USFS and Ecotrust Forest Management. Post-planting treatment is aimed at ensuring trees escape HBB influence and form a canopy capable of shading out future HBB growth. OWEB funds will be used for contracted services for the treatment of HBB, replanting of native species and in-house personnel.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project location's importance and connectivity to the high quality habitat above the project reach is well described in the application.
- The application presents a concise description of the watershed's limiting factors and the discussion of the restoration alternatives was helpful in understanding how the proposed solution would address the limiting factors.
- The site preparation approach and the planting plan are reasonable and tailored for site conditions.
- The resulting restoration of the riparian area will help improve riparian function, benefit water quality and support future large wood recruitment to the stream.

Concerns

- While the approach to establishing the plantings is reasonable, the description of the extent of the invasive blackberries and the current site conditions left uncertainty about whether the plant

establishment timeline would be sufficient to get trees to the “free to grow” stage. Future applications could be strengthened by including a more in-depth discussion of how the time needed for plant establishment was determined and the long-term maintenance needs beyond plan establishment.

- There are differences in the area to be treated between sections of the application (1 acre in the metrics, 17 acres in the narrative).
- The budget line item for “Executive Director” comprises a high percentage of the project cost. This seems high based on the associated work tasks and project timeline. Future applications would be strengthened by using the “Budget Narrative” section in the application to describe how the costs were determined.

Concluding Analysis

The project is a good opportunity to help restore native riparian function in the project reach and provide connectivity to healthy habitats upstream. The work would benefit riparian function as well as help improve water quality and restore future large wood recruitment to the area benefiting coho and other native salmonids.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$81,785

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2001-16350 **Project Type:** Restoration
Project Name: Marlow Creek Habitat Restoration
Applicant: Coos Watershed Association
Region: Southwest Oregon **County:** Coos
OWEB Request: \$355,157 **Total Cost:** \$487,315

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Marlow Creek is the lowest of the three main tributaries to the East Fork Millicoma River and has been heavily impacted by past land management practices which have resulted in degrade in-stream habitat throughout the basin (Attachment 1). Marlow Creek which has the potential to provide important habitat to fall chinook, chum and coho salmon and steelhead trout, along with other important aquatic species (e.g. Pacific lamprey). Marlow Creek has been an area of previous habitat restoration, but there is still plenty of room for more restoration work. The Marlow Creek Habitat Restoration project is a multi-component project that seeks to address a lack of stream complexity and fish passage by proposing to 1) place nearly 90 pieces of wood over 4 miles of Marlow Creek, 2) replace an undersized, perched culvert with a bridge to open 0.2 miles of tributary habitat and release a large amount of coarse sediment into the newly add wood on Marlow Creek, 3) improve passage through the boulder falls near the 5 Mile Marker on the 1000 Rd to open 2 miles of habitat, and 4) improve and maintain the 1000 Road surface and current drainage to reduce the chronic sediment input into Marlow Creek (Attachment 2). OWEB funds will be used for project management & travel, contracted services, materials & supplies, and indirect costs. The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Weyerhaeuser Timber Company, Department of State Lands (DSL), Coos Watershed Association (CoosWA), and Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) will provide match that includes engineered designs, contracted services, materials & supplies, and technical assistance.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Marlowe Creek is a highly productive stream that supports important ESA-listed coho spawning and rearing habitat.
- The proposed project work addresses critical limiting factors impacting ESA-listed coho related to simplified instream habitat conditions and passage issues.
- The proposal demonstrates a strong working relationship between partners through involvement in design, implementation and funding. Project partners have implemented a large number of similar project types successfully.
- The project continues the restoration momentum on this stream, building on completed instream and passage restoration work downstream.
- The existing riparian area has the potential for recruitment of large wood.
- The larger structures proposed will have beneficial geomorphic influences.

Concerns

- Design detail for the bridge is not provided in the application, making evaluation difficult and creating uncertainty about associated costs. It was unclear why the design was for a 50-year event and not a 100-year event, as required by ODF.
- Design detail is not provided for the large wood placements, making evaluation of approach, materials and costs difficult.
- The work proposed for improving passage at the falls is not clear regarding the site-specific design detail and the planned approach to create a jump pool.
- The logs for the instream enhancement work are already down and staged near the project, making them targets for illegal wood cutting.

Concluding Analysis

The project builds on a great deal of restoration work and has the potential to increase the habitat productivity in this stream for ESA-listed coho and other native salmon, trout and Pacific lamprey; however, having design information on both the bridge and instream work is critical to the review of the project's effects on fish passage and habitat, and without that information a complete evaluation is not possible. The applicant is encouraged to consider applying for a Technical Assistance Grant to support the design work.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2002-16351

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Williams River Quarry Falls Fish Passage Improvement

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$319,767

Total Cost: \$400,562

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Williams River is a major tributary to the South Fork Coos River and has potential to provide important habitat for fall chinook and coho salmon, winter steelhead, cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey, among other aquatic species (Attachment 1). In the 1960's, road building and quarry operations constrained the Williams River at the Five Mile Creek Quarry to the west side of the valley, up against a massive bedrock hillslope and drastically increased the stream gradient, creating the Quarry Falls. This project proposes to move the Weyerhaeuser 5000 Road and the associated river bank at the Williams River Quarry Falls approximately 30 feet to the northeast, away from the bedrock hillslope to widen the channel to a more natural state. These proposed activities will improve adult and juvenile access to nearly 21 miles of anadromous fish habitat located above the Williams River Quarry Falls all year round. The Quarry Falls is directly downstream of in-stream wood placements and a road improvement project completed in 2015 (OWEB # 214-2035) and this project would improve access to nearly 21 miles of habitat upstream. OWEB funds will be used for project management, travel, supplies & materials, contracted services, and indirect costs. Weyerhaeuser Timber Company, Coos Watershed Association (CoosWA), and Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) will provide match that includes project designs, road relocations activities, and technical assistance.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The approach to improve fish passage at the site should lessen gradient and flow velocity. The result of the work will broaden the range of hydraulic conditions, improving juvenile fish passage.
- The barrier is the final one in this system and this work will complete fish passage efforts in this watershed.
- The project will facilitate passage for multiple species including ESA-listed coho, with juveniles benefitting the most from the project.
- Project partners have experience in successfully addressing challenging fish passage projects and the application demonstrates strong working partnerships and commitment necessary to design, fund and undertake a project of this magnitude.
- The project builds on other fish passage and extensive instream habitat restoration work both upstream and downstream of the site.

Concerns

- Fish passage is not a primary limiting factor in this watershed; there are Chinook, steelhead, and coho upstream of the project site.
- The design approach includes grouting of rock associated with the new channel and road bed, and does not include a vegetation component, which may pose challenges during the permit process. It is acknowledged that this approach to protecting the road bed would allow for removal of some of the "house-sized" boulders that were dumped into the river bed during historic quarry operations.
- It was unclear why the designs included in the application were not stamped by a professional engineer.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant developed a reasonable and technically sound approach to addressing a barrier that most significantly impacts juvenile fish. While passage is not a critical limiting factor in this system, resulting in a lower benefit-cost ratio, the work would complete fish passage restoration efforts and connectivity between upstream and downstream habitats.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

9 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$319,767

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2003-16360

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Daniels Creek Riparian Restoration Project

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$108,203

Total Cost: \$141,799

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Daniels Creek drains into the South Fork Coos River, immediately upstream of its confluence with the Millicoma River, 11 miles east of Coos Bay, Coos County. The landowners are active land stewards who take great pride in their role in helping to rehabilitate native fish populations and overall stream function to the basin. Daniels Creek provides both spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook/coho and other resident trout and salmonid species. This system has been heavily impacted by past and current land management practices which have resulted in the removal of riparian vegetation. The project site contains moderate habitat with natural pools and downed wood. The reach has high intrinsic value for coho, but it is limited by lack of shade and deposition of fine sediment. This project proposes to restore riparian function through planting and fencing 2,300' of stream bank. The riparian buffer will be planted with native trees and shrub that will stabilize the bank, shade out invasive reed canary grass, improve water quality, and decrease stream temperatures. This project will complement a previous OWEB riparian planting project on the opposite bank (206-1016, 206-1027; 210-2073). Plant establishment activities will occur for 5 years after the planting to insure a goal of 80% plant survival. OWEB funds will be used for project management, contracted services, plant establishment, travel, project materials, and indirect costs. Landowner and OYCC match will cover a portion of contracted services and fully fund an 8-member youth crew for plant stewardship activities.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is a resubmittal that addresses questions raised in the previous review, including presenting different alternatives for stock watering and changing the approach from a seasonal electric fence to permanent fencing. CREP was also discussed with the landowners, who decided not to pursue it.
- The project will benefit water quality, water temperature, and habitat for ESA-listed coho as well as enhance local beaver habitat.
- The project area has high visibility and makes a good outreach opportunity to engage other landowners in potential restoration activities.
- Design details show a project that is technically sound and likely to achieve project objectives.

Concerns

- The cost-benefit of the fencing was not clear as livestock use the property seasonally and in low numbers. It could be helpful to establish a grazing management plan to help guide best management practices for the property.
- The proposed buffers are narrow, limiting their potential effectiveness.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project could influence future restoration work and generate momentum for developing projects in an area where there has been low landowner interest in the past. The landowners are supportive and committed to long-term management for restoration benefits. The project is likely to improve water quality and riparian function in the project reach.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

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Review Team Recommended Amount

\$108,203

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2004-16363 **Project Type:** Restoration
Project Name: Laurel Slough Restoration Project
Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.
Region: Southwest Oregon **County:** Josephine
OWEB Request: \$72,966 **Total Cost:** \$136,164

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project restores instream and off-channel refugia habitat for juvenile salmonids and improves adult spawning habitat, leveraging ongoing riparian restoration along the Applegate River and Williams Creek across 48 acres at the BLM Provolt Seed Orchard property. The site is located in both Jackson and Josephine counties, near the unincorporated town of Provolt Oregon. Off-channel and side-channel habitat are a limiting resource on the Applegate River and the historic side-channels at this site have become disconnected from the mainstem river because of flow regulation by Applegate Dam. This project will enhance 0.36 miles of off-channel and side-channel habitat in several historic side-channels and adjacent mainstem Applegate River instream habitat, through placement of instream large woody debris and enhancement of side-channel and alcove flows which are two of the Highest Priority Recovery Actions for SONCC Coho salmon. Enhanced rearing habitat will support populations of spring and fall Chinook salmon, ESA-listed threatened SONCC Coho salmon, summer and winter steelhead, Pacific lamprey, and cutthroat (migratory) trout as well as other aquatic species in the Applegate River Watershed. Project Partners include the Bureau of Land Management, Middle Rogue Steelheaders, the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project has a high potential for outreach to a large audience and is a good opportunity to showcase restoration as the land use changes from being managed as a federal/private seed production orchard to one offering public access for recreational purposes.
- The enhancement of side channel and flood plain habitats will benefit multiple species including ESA-listed coho, as well as improve stream and floodplain function, and benefit water quality by augmenting cold water in the summer. Lack of floodplain access is a limiting factor for SONCC coho.
- The proposal ties directly into other riparian restoration work on the property.

Concerns

- The design information presented lacked details, such as a longitudinal profile.
- The application did not describe design alternatives and objectives, including the purpose of the proposed structures.

- The design approach calls for excavation at the mouth of the channel. It was unclear why this approach, rather than work in the main channel, would be the most effective method of controlling the watering and protection of the side channel.
- It was unclear whether the proposed re-use of riprap on site meets design criteria; generally, the use of rip-rap in restoration is discouraged in favor of more natural solutions.
- Channel-spanning habitat is unlikely to remain in the side channel due to winter high flows (2,500 cfs) and low flows during summer.

Concluding Analysis

The change from the current land use into a property that will be managed for recreation uses will provide a good opportunity for demonstrating the value of restoration to the public. The project lacked important design details and associated discussion of objectives and alternatives necessary for a thorough review. The applicant is encouraged to submit a Technical Assistance proposal.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2005-16366

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Phillips Dam Fish Passage and Irrigation Efficiency Project

Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$220,681

Total Cost: \$909,994

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Upper Phillips Fish Passage and Irrigation Efficiency Project will restore fish passage at Upper Phillips Dam; install a new headgate and fish screen; and conserve water through piping 1.4 miles of irrigation ditch that serves 10 small farms in Jackson County in the Rogue River Basin. The Upper Phillips Ditch diversion has 2 dams: a 5-foot concrete structure with a 4-foot pushup dam upstream. Improvements to the diversion will eliminate the pushup dam and a bypass channel will be created around the concrete structure. These dams are located on the Little Applegate River, a major tributary of the Applegate River. This project will provide fish passage to 49 miles of essential rearing and cold water habitat, improve water quality, and increase instream flows for Endangered Species Act-listed and State-listed species Coho salmon, steelhead, Pacific lamprey, and cutthroat trout. Irrigation efficiencies will save an estimated 85% of currently diverted water and conserved water will be left instream for the benefit of aquatic species in a DEQ-listed flow-limited stream. Additionally, this project will improve irrigation infrastructure and agricultural production while leaving water instream. Designs for this project were developed under a 2015 OWEB Technical Assistance Grant and the project is a result of a decade-long partnership between the Upper Phillips Ditch Association and the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) and other partners, including Steve and Priscilla Weaver (landowners), Jackson County SWCD, OWRD, BLM, ODFW, Middle Rogue Steelheaders, Trout Unlimited, and the Rogue Basin Partnership.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project has the potential to gain an instream water right through use of the conserved water statute. Instream water would be protected downstream to the confluence with the Applegate River, a distance of approximately seven miles. Water quantity is a critical limiting factor in this watershed for ESA-listed coho.
- Besides benefiting the stream, the project would increase the efficiency of water users.
- Fish passage barriers below this project have already been addressed, increasing instream water. The next diversion point is 1,000 feet upstream.

Concerns

- In order to realize the full potential of the project, two ditches (Upper and Lower Phillips) would have

to be combined into one diversion point. It is unknown at this time what the actual water savings will be from the project.

- Agreements for the project and project deliverables have not yet been developed with users.
- It was unclear how much water is currently diverted and how much would be diverted after project implementation. Determining conserved water will be part of a second phase after the fish passage and ditch piping work is completed.
- The designs were not detailed enough to determine whether they meet state and federal fish passage criteria. Information such as water depths within the by-pass channel and height specifications for the blocks would help inform the review. Additional design considerations should include concentrating the flow more in the by-pass channel, having a v-shape at the bottom, and adding one or two pools of moderate depth to improve fish passage.

Concluding Analysis

Water quantity is a critical limiting factor in the watershed. The project has potential to build on the instream flows that have already been realized from previous projects downstream. Potential savings from this project have not been determined and would likely not be established until after the project was implemented. Future submissions could be improved through a more thorough discussion about documenting potential instream water, the feasibility of combining diversion points, and ensuring designs meet fish passage standards.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$220,681

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2006-16369

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Baker Creek Fish Passage
Restoration

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$685,573

Total Cost: \$1,160,463

Project Abstract *(from application)*

On Baker Creek there is a 12ft diameter by 250ft length culvert that is perched 18ft above stream grade and currently obstructing native migratory fish passage (Powers, Oregon/Coos County). Baker Creek was designated as a "Key Watershed" for maintaining and recovering at-risk anadromous fish habitat under the Northwest Forest Plan. Removal of the culvert has been identified by both state and federal agencies as a high priority restoration project for ESA listed Oregon Coast coho salmon and other anadromous species. Culvert removal will address limiting factors for coho recovery in the Coquille basin by restoring volitional fish passage and stream connectivity to important juvenile thermal refugia and access to an additional 2.0 miles of spawning and rearing habitat. In 2012, a feasibility study occurred to evaluate the removal of the culvert and the project has moved forward since then. River Design Group has issued a 30% design and is approaching a 60% design in May 2018. An OWEB TA grant is funding ongoing cultural resource surveys and final engineering designs. Together with the BLM, ODFW and the USFWS, the Coquille Watershed Association will restore anadromous fish passage to critical spawning, rearing and thermal refugia habitat. Pre-restoration actions in 2018 include fortifying the surrounding road and bridge. Restoration actions in 2019 include: removing the culvert and degraded fish ladder, constructing a pilot channel, and allowing for natural sediment delivery. In 2020, final channel modifications will be made and the team will construct LWD structures to enhance habitat at the project site.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project design and approach resulted from two Technical Assistance grants, is technically sound, and is likely to achieve project objectives.
- Baker Creek is a thermal refugia for ESA-listed coho; barrier removal will provide access to two more miles of high-quality cold water habitat.
- Strong partnerships are evidenced by the technical resources, funding, and implementation support contributed by project partners. USFWS and NOAA have been involved in permitting, with the project on track to begin implementation in 2019.
- The location originally identified for fill material disposal has changed to eliminate the need for a temporary bridge to cross the stream.
- The project will improve stream temperature in a 303(d)-listed stream.

- The proposed approach works with natural stream processes rather than hardening solutions in place.
- Large wood structures will trap sediment in a gravel-starved reach downstream of the culvert replacement site.

Concerns

- There is a high cost associated with addressing a barrier of this magnitude.

Concluding Analysis

The magnitude of the project makes it seem more like a dam removal than a typical culvert removal. The South Fork Coquille is water quality limited with high water temperatures during the summer months and is also sediment starved. The project will provide refugia for juvenile salmonids and help restore natural stream function and sediments to the system below.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$685,573

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$685,573

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2007-16371 **Project Type:** Restoration
Project Name: Seestrom Tidelands Restoration
Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association
Region: Southwest Oregon **County:** Coos
OWEB Request: \$808,600 **Total Cost:** \$2,802,293

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Lack of slow-water refugia and off-channel habitat has been identified as one of the most critical limiting factors affecting Oregon Coast ESU coho salmon recovery. These types of habitats, including tidal wetland habitats in the Coquille River basin, have been converted to pasture using tidegate infrastructure to the extent that less than 5% of the historic acreage of wetlands currently exists. Restoration of tidal wetlands is a top priority for coho recovery in federal, state and local action plans. The Seestrom Tidelands Restoration project will address this critical limiting factor by restoring floodplain connectivity to 270 acres of working ranch on the Coquille River near Riverton, OR (Coos County). Prioritized as a high potential restoration project by a tidegate survey and optimization model, this working landscapes project will provide critical habitat restoration for coho and other anadromous fish while also providing improved pasture infrastructure and water management. To achieve this, the Coquille Watershed Association and the landowner are collaborating with ODFW and USFWS. Restoration actions include replacing two failing tidegates limiting anadromous fish passage to critical winter habitat, reconstructing historical tidal channels from current diked channels, planting a riparian buffer in a fenced livestock exclusion area, and implementing a water management plan. These restoration actions will improve access, complexity, and productive capacity of floodplain and tidally influenced habitats for overwintering coho, summer rearing fall Chinook salmon, cutthroat trout and Pacific lamprey while also providing increased drainage and pasture management for the landowner; truly a win-win restoration project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application addressed concerns raised in the previous review regarding both the lack of a design and water management plan. USFWS financial and technical support has resulted in project designs that are ready for implementation. The water management plan is now in place.
- The design engineer is also responsible for construction inspection.
- The landowners are supportive and committed to the project. The working lands project accomplishes conservation goals while continuing agricultural use. Under a 5-year agreement, the landowners will be responsible for maintenance of fences and riparian vegetation.
- The project is a good outreach opportunity for other landowners facing tidegate issues.
- The project is a result of a strong partnership, with partners working together to develop, finance, and implement the project.

- Restoration and a “fish friendly” tidegate will benefit many species dependent upon tidal wetlands and off-channel habitat. The project will have a high benefit to juvenile ESA-listed coho by increasing opportunities for over-winter habitat critical to their production and survival.
- The project will help restore a more predictable tidal exchange regime and restore riparian areas.

Concerns

- Replacement of tidegates comes at a high cost and the infrastructure has a defined lifespan. In this case, the \$165,000 for mobilization/demobilization seems high, and the \$850,000 in match is unsecured.

Concluding Analysis

Designs are complete and permits should be in hand in late 2018. The project is a good working landscape model and will have significant benefits to the watershed in the form of improving tidal function, water quality, and habitat critical to the survival of juvenile ESA-listed coho and many other species. Additionally, the landowner’s ability to manage for agricultural purposes will be enhanced, increasing the likelihood of long-term success in improving watershed health.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$808,600

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$808,600

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2008-16388

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Steelhead Creek Culvert Replacement and Stream Enhancement

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$170,689

Total Cost: \$350,608

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Steelhead Creek, a tributary stream located in the northeastern part of the West Fork Cow Creek watershed, was surveyed for fish habitat conditions and fish presence as part of creating the West Fork Cow Creek Action Plan (2016). West Fork Cow Creek is a 55,914 acre 5th field watershed located in the South Umpqua sub-basin. Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR), Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Medford BLM and private timber companies began a new partnership to assess fish presence and stream habitat conditions and prioritize restoration work in that area (OWEB TA 215-2049). A fish passage blocking culvert and poor instream conditions on Steelhead Creek ranked as high priority projects to increase productivity for Oregon Coast (OC) coho, winter steelhead and other native fish. Project designs for top-tier project work across the watershed were completed in 2017 and included the instream structure design and culvert replacement design and specifications for Steelhead Creek. BLM, PUR and ODFW staff worked together to design instream log structures at 31 sites across 1.25 miles of Steelhead Creek for a total of 168 logs placed on both BLM managed and Weyerhaeuser lands. Instream habitat structures will extend from the mouth of the creek to 0.25 miles past the failing culvert. PUR's contract engineer surveyed the culvert site and designed a culvert to provide fish passage to an additional 1.0 mile of upstream habitat. OWEB funds will be used for wages and benefits, contracted services, travel, materials, post-project monitoring and grant administration.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Project partners have developed a good track record developing and implementing instream and fish passage projects.
- Replacing the culvert will provide access for ESA-listed coho to high intrinsic potential habitat as well as improve stream function and sediment transport in the reach.
- At the downstream end of the project is a high value extensive beaver complex where another tributary meets Steelhead Creek, increasing the benefits of habitat restoration.
- The culvert designs meet NOAA fish passage criteria.
- The culvert has a high potential for failure, creating a sense of urgency.
- Given the gravel richness of the stream, there should be a quick response to the large wood placement in the form of increased habitat complexity.
- The project builds on extensive instream habitat and fish passage work undertaken in this sub-watershed.

Concerns

- The culvert is higher in the system, so biologically it is less of a priority.
- Additional information on culvert design would be helpful to the review, including whether there had been a scour analysis, who developed the design, and a better description of the stream and channel.

Concluding Analysis

The application demonstrates strong partnerships committed to improving habitat conditions in this system. The proposal addresses the second highest priority limiting factor for ESA-listed coho by increasing instream habitat complexity, and is complementary to its watershed context, which includes an established beaver complex downstream as well as completed habitat restoration projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$170,689

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$170,689

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2009-16399

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Butler/Lutsinger Instream
Restoration

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$312,216

Total Cost: \$524,070

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The tributaries of the Middle Umpqua River are prolific streams, with a close proximity to the ocean, gravel richness, and overall productivity that make them key to Oregon Coast Coho recovery and survival. However, many have been severely impacted by historic management practices that are now outlawed, such as splash damming and stream cleaning. Several tributaries in the Lower Umpqua River were assessed for fisheries restoration need and where appropriate, project work was designed (OWEB TA 215-2047). On both streams, a lack of instream large wood has limited spawning and rearing habitat, resulting in lower fish production. Log structures were designed for Butler and Lutsinger creeks during the technical assistance project. Across both BLM managed and Roseburg Resources owned timberlands, this project seeks to restore 4.25 miles of Lutsinger Creek (including tributaries), and 1.25 miles of Butler Creek by using a helicopter and excavator to place 588 logs. All sites have been identified, and a material list is attached. Lutsinger Creek has been the subject of restoration activities, including two fish passage culvert replacements and 3.2 miles of instream fish habitat restoration accomplished in 2009 and 2016 (OWEB #209-2020, #215-2014). When 2019 work is complete, all reaches of Lutsinger Creek and Butler Creek that are accessible to salmonids will be fully restored. OWEB funds will be used for project management and travel, contracted services, project materials, and fiscal administration.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed restoration actions will help restore natural stream function and enhance ESA-listed coho spawning and rearing habitats, improving productivity.
- The coordination of helicopter work with other projects in the region helps reduce costs.
- The project partners have developed a good track record developing and implementing instream habitat projects. New partners were brought in, resulting in increased leverage.
- The design approach bundled the remaining project work within the stream system in order to eliminate multiple site mobilization costs.
- This proposal is complementary to previous restoration efforts in Butler and Lutsinger Creeks.
- The project addresses stream complexity, a critical limiting factor for coho.

Concerns

- The potential for future large wood recruitment is low.
- Aggradation will increase the width/depth ratio of the channel.
- The proposed approach relies on locking logs into small alder in an entrenched channel. While the design includes more pieces of wood than is typical to compensate, there is a risk that the structures will move.

Concluding Analysis

The application is a resubmittal from the previous cycle when it was recommended but fell below the funding line. The applicant addressed questions in the previous review about helicopter usage and associated costs by avoiding the need to re-enter the system for additional work. Restoration will address limiting factors for ESA-listed coho and the habitat needs of other native fish species. There is urgency to the timing of OWEB funding since matching BLM RAC funds will otherwise be lost.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$312,216

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$312,216

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2010-16411

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks
Restoration

Applicant: Elk Creek WC

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$328,009

Total Cost: \$556,285

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project addresses key watershed problems in Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks, the two major tributaries of the Middle Elk Creek 6th-field watershed of the Elk Creek 5th-field watershed of the Umpqua Basin, west of Drain in North Douglas County, Oregon. Past and current land management practices have contributed to degraded instream coho habitat, riparian habitat and water quality, as well as fish passage barriers. The restoration plan is based on the recommendations of the Fish and Stream Habitat Inventory Findings and Restoration Action Plans for Jack Creek (2015) and Hardscrabble Creek (2016). Restoration actions include:

- Installation of 67 instream fish habitat structures along 3 miles of Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks (313 logs, 700 boulders, 20 whole trees, 200+ Christmas trees) to increase in-stream habitat complexity
- Replacement of culvert on Johney Creek (Jack Creek tributary) to open up 1.75 miles of high intrinsic potential coho habitat
- Replacement of “low-water bridge” on Hardscrabble Creek to improve access to 2.5 miles of high intrinsic potential coho spawning habitat
- Replacement of damaged culvert on Hardscrabble Creek before its failure impacts water quality
- Restoration of 12 acres of degraded riparian habitat along 1.3 miles, of Jack and Johney Creeks by brush mulching, planting 1700 trees and shrubs to enhance mature hardwoods, and a 3-year spring and fall herbicide regime for brush and moisture control to encourage native plant survival.
- Complete exclusion of livestock from 1.3 miles of Jack and Johney Creeks, with 2.6 miles of wildlife-friendly riparian fencing, 2 railcar bridges and an off-channel livestock water system
- Extensive willow planting (5000 cuttings) to provide shade, capture bedload and improve beaver habitat

Partners include the landowner (the Woolley family - Hardscrabble Ranch, LLC), OWEB, BLM, ODFW, Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District and the Umpqua Fish Enhancement Derby.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The landowner and property manager are committed to making the project successful. The application demonstrates good partnerships in place to develop, implement, and maintain the work for restoration benefits. The project will also help increase the landowner's effectiveness in managing the property for both agricultural and forestry purposes.
- The landowner has good rapport with other landowners in the watershed and is open to using the project as an outreach tool.
- The project will benefit habitat important to ESA-listed coho and other native salmonids as well as help improve water quality. The stream reaches were selected based on a watershed rapid bioassessment.

- The setbacks are larger than is typical and all fencing is wildlife friendly.

Concerns

- More information on bridge and culvert designs would be useful to the review:
 - o two of the bridges were identified as project match and one has already been installed;
 - o bridge scour is not addressed;
 - o the railcar bridges are not included in the budget; and
 - o boulder and barb structures in the site 13 design are more appropriate for a bedrock channel rather than an alluvial system.
- The applicant has limited experience with restoration projects. To address capacity concerns, the applicant should consider phasing the project by implementing the bridges and culverts first, then the in-stream and fencing components.

Concluding Analysis

The application is a resubmittal in which the applicant addressed questions and incorporated suggestions from the previous review. The landowners and the land manager are committed to the success of the project, which has a high likelihood of achieving project objectives. Due to the complexity of the project, the applicant should consider phasing the work.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$328,009

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2011-16330

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Cow Creek Umpqua Tribe Rogue River Restoration Project

Applicant: Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$45,997

Total Cost: \$57,517

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians owns a working cattle and hay production ranch on the main stem Rogue River in Jackson County near Central Point, Oregon. The property includes approximately 9,700 feet of frontage along the Rogue River. A portion of that frontage (approximately 200 feet) is actively eroding into the river and there is an additional 400 ft of frontage that requires restoration in order to stabilize the bank and provide other ecosystem functions. The eroding side channel is a chronic source of sediment to the Rogue River and is threatening to erode a narrow strip of land between the river and a pond on the property that is used for irrigation. The remaining 400 ft of non-actively eroding channel needs to be treated for invasive species (Himalayan blackberry). Once the invasive species are removed, the site will need to be re-planted in order to stabilize the bank and avoid sedimentation into the channel. While addressing the riparian function, we will enhance the side channel with fish habitat structures that can be used for cover and juvenile fish rearing. This is a critical area for salmonid spawning and rearing, as side channel habitat is considered limited in the main stem Rogue River. We will hire a consulting firm to perform a site investigation, draft a narrative report, and prepare a preferred conceptual 30% design for the site. Project partners include the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians Natural Resources Department (Water and Environmental Resources Program), K-Bar Ranches Corp. (Tribally owned) and the Tribe's Emergency Management Department. This work would also support efforts by others to improve the habitat within the main stem Rogue River including The Freshwater Trust and other NGO's working within the Rogue Basin.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The resulting restoration will help to prevent negative impacts which could occur if the Rogue River captured an historic aggregate quarry which now serves as an irrigation pond.
- The bioengineering approach is sound and may help demonstrate techniques to other landowners with similar issues. In addition to bio-engineering techniques, the design will consider wood structures to slow water velocity, a technique used successfully at similar sites to address erosion on meanders.
- The side channel has potential to increase refugia for juvenile salmonids including ESA-listed coho.
- The riparian restoration will reduce temperature and sedimentation and stabilize the stream banks if it works as designed. Greater benefit would be achieved if more riparian area was added to project scope.

Concerns

- The application identifies other partners but their commitment to the project is unclear. It is also unclear if there had been effective communication about the project with the local community.
- It is unclear whether bioengineering techniques alone will have enough time to establish and hold if the channel is actively eroding into the bank.
- The application did not identify contributory causes to the erosion problem. It will be important to look at the larger project reach in order to determine causal factors. Two earlier OWEB funded projects (203-019 and 204-098) located nearby may provide baseline information related to channel profiles to assist in the design work.
- It was unclear whether adequate consideration was given to other alternatives.
- The budget for contracted services is in the form of lump sums, making it difficult to evaluate the appropriateness of the costs.

Concluding Analysis

The project seeks to address bank erosion and the possible capture of an irrigation pond on the mainstem Rogue River. These situations can unravel quickly and cause significant impacts in the form of increased sedimentation, impacts to channel integrity, and loss of riparian areas, which are then more costly to address. Other projects in the vicinity have been successful in halting gravel pond capture, and should inform the design of this project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$45,997

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2012-16343

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Floras Creek Sediment Abatement
Road Inventory_Resubmission

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Curry

OWEB Request: \$25,300

Total Cost: \$38,800

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Floras Creek is a 52,000 acre coastal watershed that is located in the northern Siskiyou Mountains of Curry County, near the town of Langlois, Oregon. Approximately 92% of the watershed is privately owned and actively managed for timber, livestock, and aggregate. Sediment loading from roads, gullies, and quarries impairs water quality and inundates the lower Mainstem with bedload; to the detriment of the native salmonid populations, Langlois' municipal water source, and bottomland agricultural operations. Through this TA proposal we will inventory sediment sources on 36.6 miles of privately owned, non-industrial, forestry-grazing roads located on 6 ownerships (5443 acres) in the Middle Mainstem and South Fork subwatersheds; and on 4.33 miles of BLM road (695 acres) that are interspersed within the private road networks. Road inventory data will be collected using an established protocol that catalogues road drainage, stream crossings, and unstable road fills; and prioritizes sediment abatement based on the magnitude and likelihood of sediment delivery. Sediment abatement plans will be developed to summarize the inventory data, prescribe BMP's for priority sites, and provide design specifications and cost estimates for implementation. BLM staff and private landowners will assist with the inventory; ODA and the Drinking Water Providers Partnership will provide matching funds.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is a resubmittal of an application that was previously not recommended for funding. The applicant addressed concerns raised from the previous review by improving maps and including a discussion of the survey approach, including its use for a similar project that resulted in identification and development of successful on-the-ground projects.
- There are multiple EQIP and CREP projects in the area and expanding sediment reduction work to roads would leverage those projects.
- The applicant has developed good relations with private landowners in the area and the work focuses on private roads in the watershed.
- The project area includes the drinking water source for the City of Langlois, which helps leverage additional funds.

Concerns

- A large portion of matching funds is pending; however, there is a high likelihood that ODA funding will be secured.

- The application lacks a systematic approach and a specific set of established protocols.

Concluding Analysis

The project ultimately seeks to treat many different problems related to roads and seeks to be flexible to meet multiple private landowners' needs. As a result, the approach appears to incorporate methods adapted from several assessment processes rather than a more systematic approach. Similar previous road survey efforts by the applicant have led to successful project implementation, however, and the project is based on that work with similar outcomes anticipated by the project partners.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$25,300

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2013-16348

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Twelvemile Creek Watershed
Assessment and Project Development

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$42,092

Total Cost: \$81,474

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project will occur on Twelvemile Creek, a 24,000-acre drainage to the Middle Fork Coquille River (Douglas County). Twelvemile Creek provides spawning and rearing habitat for coho, fall Chinook, winter steelhead, coastal cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey. Primary limiting factors in the sub-watershed include a lack of stream habitat complexity and poor water quality. Historically, Twelvemile Creek was clear-cut and subjected to stream cleaning. Resultantly, most of Twelvemile Creek and its major fish bearing tributaries lack sufficient LWD. Additionally, the sub-watershed has riparian corridors impacted by a legacy of timber harvesting resulting in reduced recruitment of LWD. Moreover, an extensive array of road networks throughout the basin are contributing to high rates of sediment loading. We aim to review watershed conditions in order to develop, prioritize, and design habitat/water quality enhancement projects in the sub-watershed. Assessments will include surveying fish passage impediments on road crossings, conducting road network surveys using Geomorphic Road Analysis and Inventory Package methods, and analyzing existing ODFW Aquatic Habitat Inventory data to evaluate current stream/riparian conditions and prioritize reaches for treatment. We expect assessments to yield 5-7 potential projects as determined by project partners (CoqWA, timber companies, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, ODFW, BLM). This funding will cover designs and initial permitting for the top three projects. We have conducted initial surveying and expect to develop designs for a minimum of 1 anadromous stream culvert replacement, placement of ~200 LWD components, installation of 200-400+ cross drain/road infrastructure improvements and riparian enhancement where needed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application presented a sound plan which is likely to lead to identifying priority areas and specific project sites.
- Resulting restoration actions will benefit water quality and habitat in Twelvemile Creek and the benefits are likely to extend to the Middle Fork Coquille. There is a perception that ESA-listed coho do not use Twelvemile Creek and while it is near the top of their range in the Middle Fork Coquille watershed, they can access it. The proposal presents an opportunity for a pilot project to get meaningful restoration work started in this watershed.
- The road survey work covers 36 miles, making it a significant effort to identify sediment inputs and road crossing issues. The survey will utilize professionally accepted methods described in The Geomorphic Road Analysis and Inventory Package.

- There is urgency to the timing of the application. A fire in 2017 killed trees which will be suitable for instream habitat restoration projects for a limited time.

Concerns

- Access to one stream segment has been denied in the past, but current management is amenable to instream project work there.

Concluding Analysis

Twelvemile Creek has not had a lot of attention but restoration has potential to benefit water quality as well as fish populations both in Twelvemile Creek and the Middle Fork Coquille. The proposal offers a sound plan that has a high likelihood of resulting in important restoration projects being developed and implemented.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$42,092

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$42,092

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2014-16357

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Lower Bridgepoint Dam Fish Passage Project

Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Josephine

OWEB Request: \$34,502

Total Cost: \$54,422

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project will develop engineered designs for fish passage improvement and irrigation efficiency at Lower Bridgepoint Dam (York Breeden Dam), a channel-spanning, fish passage barrier at river mile 0.5 on Williams Creek in Josephine County. Lower Bridgepoint Dam impedes adult passage to high quality spawning habitat and completely blocks juvenile access to habitat designated as core cold water habitat and high intrinsic potential habitat. The dam suppresses access to over 13.1 miles of habitat for Chinook salmon, 24 miles of habitat for ESA- listed threatened SONCC Coho salmon, 36.2 miles of habitat for steelhead, 62.5 miles of habitat for cutthroat trout, and 11.5 miles of habitat for ESA-listed species of concern Pacific lamprey. Lower Bridgepoint Dam is listed on the 2018 ODFW Statewide Fish Passage Priority list and is #10 on the Rogue Basin Partnership Future Project Priority "Top 10 List" of fish passage projects. The current conveyance system has a low efficiency rate and high transmission losses which require diverting a greater quantity of water in order for irrigators near the end of the ditch to receive their full allotment of water. Additionally, the dam has caused accelerated erosion of streambanks at the BLM Provolt Seed Orchard. This proposal will provide engineered designs for a reverse siphon that will replace the current pushup dam and restore access to miles of high quality fish habitat thereby supporting fish population recovery for ESA-listed and state-listed species. The developed streambank stability and conveyance efficiency designs will improve fish population, address DEQ-listed limiting factors, and watershed health by increasing water quality and leaving water instream. Project partners include Blue Fox Farms, Whistling Duck Farms, Lower Bridgepoint Irrigation Association, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Oregon Water Resources Department, Rogue Basin Partnership, and Middle Rogue Steelheaders.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The resulting restoration work will benefit ESA-listed coho and other anadromous species through improved fish passage and water quantity, both of which are critical limiting factors in this system. The applicant is investigating using the conserved water statute with land owners to permanently protect instream water.
- The project site is in proximity to, and builds upon, other restoration efforts including fish passage, riparian, and instream habitat restoration.
- The project is supported by a strong partnership and commitment to the project is evidenced by the many letters of support describing partner roles.

- The technical approach is sound and has a high likelihood of achieving project objectives.
- The project is timely with respect to a proposed nearby recreation development.

Concerns

- None identified.

Concluding Analysis

The resulting habitat restoration and water quality improvement is likely to provide high value for this technical assistance investment while providing the opportunity for irrigators to more efficiently and effectively use diverted water.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$34,502

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$34,502

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2015-16384

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: South Fork Coos River Road
Inventory and Sediment Reduction

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$65,166

Total Cost: \$86,692

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The South Fork Coos River and its tributaries support numerous species of anadromous salmonids and resident fish. These tributaries are very important for refuge from high winter stream flows and unfavorable summer water temperatures. Surrounding these streams are a network of both private and federal forest roads. Fine sediment from these roads can have significant effects on aquatic habitat and water quality. Fish passage barriers and impediments can fragment stream reaches limiting access to valuable habitat. This grant will fund a road inventory to evaluate approximately 240 miles of roads that drain directly to the South Fork Coos River and its highly valuable tributary systems. We will use a protocol designed by the US Forest Service Geomorphic Road Analysis and Inventory Package (GRAIP) to capture current road conditions and identify problems. This project will provide two tools for reducing the effects of road on streams: (1) a road features GIS database; (2) a fish passage and sediment reduction Action Plan. These tools will help us to estimate road sediment yield and hydrological connectivity; identify needs, prioritization, and layouts for road improvements, or decommissions; and used for tracking sediment reduction actions and long term asset management. Project partners will be Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Weyerhaeuser and US Forest Service (USFS). Weyerhaeuser, BLM, and ODFW will help to develop future restoration projects. US Forest Service will provide training and support. OWEB funds will be used to conduct surveys, data analysis, project management, training, travel, equipment and supplies.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant responded to a suggestion from the previous review by providing training on the survey methodology to Weyerhaeuser road staff.
- The project will survey a high number of road miles (234) for the investment.
- The project takes a watershed approach using an established methodology (GRAIP) to identify sediment sources, which the applicant has utilized successfully in other watersheds.
- The project seeks to identify opportunities to develop projects to address sediment from road crossings, which leverages prior instream habitat restoration and fish passage work.
- There is a strong partnership evidenced by extensive survey work previously undertaken in the Coos River watershed. Project partners have a history of collaborating to develop and implement projects once assessments are done.

- Resulting restoration work will improve water quality through reduction of sediment and benefit habitat important to ESA-listed coho and other salmon and trout species utilizing the system.

Concerns

- The application did not respond to previous concerns requesting details on habitat potential and capacity, and linkage to fish distribution.
- The USFS is not listed as a partner, yet the proposed work utilizes USFS protocols.
- The proposed methodology includes a comprehensive survey of potential problems, but the result is limited to a prioritization of riparian road issues.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant and the project partners have developed a strong working relationship and a strong track record on similar projects. The previous efforts have resulted in multiple restoration projects to address road issues in streams important to ESA-listed coho and other native fish species.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$65,166

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2016-16385

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Elkton Reserve Restoration Project

Applicant: South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$53,149

Total Cost: \$89,349

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Elkton Reserve site, located on the main stem of the Umpqua River near Elkton in Douglas County, is home to 410 acres of complex, high value, critical oak and mixed conifer habitat. An existing Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP) plan is in place for the property. However, its focus is on conifer forest habitat management, and the HFRP plan contains little direction for the management of non-forested habitat such as open meadows, oak stands, mixed oak conifer stands and streams, ponds, bogs, and other aquatic assets. These more open or aquatic habitats support or have the potential to support a wide variety of wildlife, including songbirds, rare prairie and oak-dependent plants, and federally listed aquatic species such as Coho salmon or species of concern such as Lamprey, Umpqua Chub and the Western Pond Turtle. Current challenges within more open habitats include non-native weeds and conifer encroachment into the meadow and oak habitat areas. In addition, very little attention has been paid to the aquatic habitats, and existing culvert crossings are substandard. We propose to develop a comprehensive restoration plan for the site that incorporates State and Federally recognized high priority habitats. Creating this plan will ensure that restoration actions will conserve and improve rare habitats and provide benefits to the species that depend upon them for years to come. Project partners include National Resource Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Dept. Forestry, Oregon Dept. Fish and Wildlife, Lomakatsi Restoration Project and the South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- A portion of the property is enrolled in The Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP) and is under a permanent easement held by NRCS.
- The landowners are conservation-minded and the land management approach is sound.
- The project is supported by NRCS and USFWS.
- The property has valuable upland habitat including open meadow and oak. Aquatic resources are limited as the property is at the upper end of the sub-watershed; however, there is beaver activity present.
- The proposal presents a good opportunity for developing an implementable plan to address multiple issues facing important habitat types from a ridge to ridge perspective.

Concerns

- The implementation of any oak habitat restoration resulting from this Technical Assistance project within the bounds of the easement will likely require additional review by NRCS/USFWS/ODF to insure the HFRP values of the easement, particularly for spotted owl habitat, as well as the protections of the safe harbor agreement for Northern Spotted Owl, all remain intact.
- The application as presented seems to be more technical planning rather than site-specific design, making it unclear whether eligible restoration projects will result.
- A large portion of match is pending, which could impact the project.
- It was not apparent if the applicant will be working with USFWS or ODA on federally listed ESA plant species that have habitat ranges that include the property.
- The ecosystem benefits, as presented, were hard to quantify.

Concluding Analysis

There is potential to restore and protect important upland habitat areas, and to provide outreach opportunities for restoration. The HFRP plan did not consider oak habitat values, creating some challenges to implementing any restoration actions on those areas within the easement. The HFRP is a "working lands" program, however, and there is the possibility that if all the interested parties -- the landowners, NRCS, ODF, and USFWS -- worked together they could develop a path forward that updates the existing HFRP plan to include a more holistic approach while still maintaining the values and intentions of the HFRP. Having certainty that the Technical Assistance project will result in implementable projects within the HFRP easement is vital.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2017-16396

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Coos Estuarine Wetland
Restoration Project Designs

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$55,868

Total Cost: \$76,148

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This Technical Assistance proposal will consist of developing project designs, permits, and funding proposals for wetland restoration projects in high priority areas for lowland restoration: the Coos Bay estuary, mainstem Coos River, and the Catching Creek basin—a main tributary to the Coos Bay, east of the town of Coos Bay, Coos County. After rearing in protective freshwater areas, juvenile salmonids migrate downstream, into highly productive wetlands where they continue to grow and acclimate to salt water. Marshes can be critical to the growth and maturation of coho salmon; however, 80-90% of salt marshes in the Coos basin have been lost due to diking and filling for agricultural and industrial purposes. This has led to a significant reduction in the quantity and quality and rearing habitat available to juvenile salmonids. Resulting deliverables will include four wetland restoration projects ready to receive funding and be implemented. These projects will restore or enhance 107.5 acres of wetlands for salmonid rearing habitat and will include restoration practices such as wetland and riparian plantings, channel reconfigurations, culvert replacements, and large wood placements. These restoration actions require technical expertise, and advisors including South Slough National Estuary Research Reserve (SSNERR), Chris Claire from ODFW, and Craig Cornu (former Stewardship Coordinator of SSNERR) will be consulted on project designs. OWEB funds will primarily be used for project management and personnel time to prepare permits and land use agreements, write reports, develop grant applications, perform hydrological modeling for channel reconfigurations, determine large wood placements, and stream crossing designs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application was well developed and provided clear project detail and background information.
- The project focuses on the estuary environment and the resulting restoration will benefit many species, including ESA-listed coho, wetlands, tidal processes, and water quality.
- The application describes the specific projects and the amount of habitat that would result from the project designs.
- Coos Watershed Association has a sound track record of developing projects from assessment and strategic planning work.
- The proposal offers a sound approach to working with an interesting mix of targeted landowners including private, private industrial, non-profit and public.

Concerns

- Public awareness efforts were not addressed in the application.
- Some restoration designs involve developing “high-risk plans” for structures such as bridges, dikes, and tidegates, and will have to be approached thoughtfully. Plans will likely require a professional engineer stamp.
- This is a complex project and it was unclear whether the proposed budget is adequate.

Concluding Analysis

Historic estuary losses make projects that seek to restore impaired function a high priority. The applicant has proven experience developing sound watershed assessments and implementing successful projects, including undertaking the design and permitting necessary for construction.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$55,868

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$55,868

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2018-16382

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Coos-Coquille Comprehensive
Tidegate Outreach

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$169,792

Total Cost: \$214,117

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Increased juvenile coho access to tidally-influenced rearing habitat is identified as critical for species recovery in the 2016 NMFS Final ESA Recovery Plan for Oregon Coast Coho Salmon, and in numerous state and local plans. Coastwide, that access has been increasingly restricted over the past 150 years by tidegate networks constructed to drain land for agricultural production. In the Coos and Coquille watersheds more than 18,000 acres of such habitat has been identified, and existing tidegate inventories confirm that the overwhelming majority of infrastructure restricting fish access is on private lands. Many aging tidegate systems are increasingly ineffective, and new tidegate designs can address fish passage consistent with pasture management goals, but to date few agricultural landowners have participated in fish passage upgrades. They report difficulty finding consistent, intelligible regulatory information about their options; lack confidence in regulators; doubt that fish passage provisions will serve their agricultural interests; and/or need financial and technical advice and assistance with prerequisites for permits and project implementation. The Coos SWCD and Coos and Coquille Watershed Associations propose to cost-effectively address these engagement barriers by jointly implementing a comprehensive multi-level outreach program to landowner groups and individuals as a non-regulatory “full-service” resource for exploration of project options. Our combined agricultural and fish habitat expertise has earned landowner trust and enables us to provide on-site evaluation of project options, agency liaison, and follow-up technical assistance and referral. The project is endorsed by local landowners, landowner groups, and local government.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project complements a larger state/federal/county initiative to address tidegate issues.
- The project will provide a needed forum to support a more proactive approach, involving all parties in addressing issues associated with tidegates.
- The multi-pronged approach, which includes a non-regulatory entity holding meetings at neutral places, should improve landowner participation. The work is informed by the successful Coffee Klatch approach previously implemented by the Coos Watershed Association.
- The approach is likely to be effective for translating regulations to landowners and provides landowners a pathway for identifying issues alongside other landowners facing similar issues.
- The work will lay the foundation for restoring estuarine habitat. The potential for improved estuarine habitat will benefit ESA-listed coho and a multitude of other aquatic species in these two watersheds.

- There is a lot of aging tidegate infrastructure and engaging landowners will not only benefit estuarine health but also benefit the ability of land managers to more proactively manage their properties.
- In the Coos watershed, there is potential to add value by incorporating the Coho Business Plan messaging into the outreach work.

Concerns

- Trust is going to play a big part in successfully implementing this work. The applicant plans to hire a partnership coordinator and it will be important to have leadership and a team that has a high likelihood of being accepted by landowners.
- While the project focus is on agricultural landowners, it is also important that municipalities be included in the outreach.
- It is important to also lay the foundation for the future as tidegates upgraded now will, in several decades, once again be nearing the end of their functional life and will need replacing.
- The deliverables are vague in terms of the types of material produced and the metrics are unclear regarding the number of landowners to be reached.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant has presented a thoughtful pathway for engaging landowners in understanding and addressing tidegates with a proactive and non-traditional approach. The proposed stakeholder engagement is likely to result in projects that restore connectivity and enhance land managers' use of their property much sooner than traditional efforts.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 1

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$169,792

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

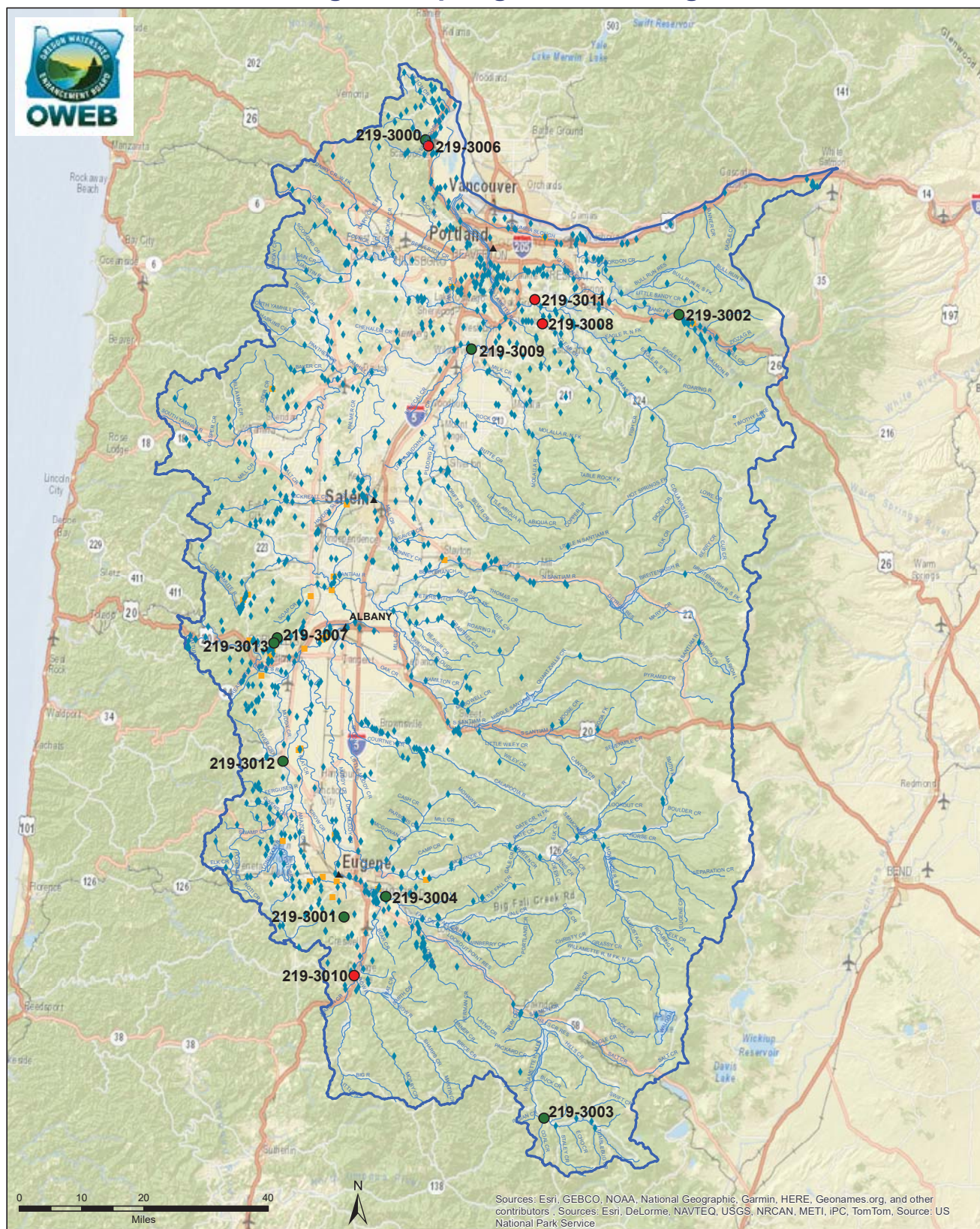
Staff Recommended Amount

\$169,792

Staff Conditions

None

Willamette Basin - Region 3 Spring 2018 Funding Recommendations



Document Path: Z:\oweb\Technical_Services\Information_Services\GIS\Maps\Review Team Meetings\2018SpringCycle\Projects\Region3_AppFundingStatus_11x17_2018Spring.mxd
 ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB-PK Wills 20180925

Funding Recommendations

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

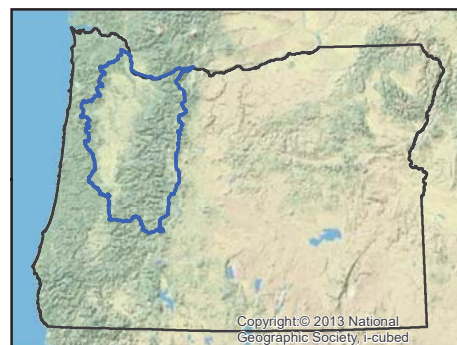
Previous Grants - 1998-2017

- ◆ Restoration Acquisitions
- Acquisitions
- ~ Streams
- ⬮ Region Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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 Salem, OR 97301-1290
 (503) 986-0178
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Region 3 - Willamette Basin

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
|---|------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------|-----------|
| 219-3001 | Coast Fork Willamette WC | Camas Swale Restoration: Neighbors Working Together | Native streamside plant communities will be established by planting native vegetation, controlling noxious weeds, and installing fencing to exclude livestock along Camas Swale near Creswell, Oregon. This 9.66 acre project will benefit native fish and wildlife habitat and improve water quality. | 85,371 | Lane |
| 219-3003 | Middle Fork Willamette WC | Coal Creek Floodplain Restoration | Natural stream functions in Coal Creek, a tributary in the Upper Middle Fork Willamette River, will be restored by removing berms and placing large wood instream. This 20-acre project will restore a natural river connection with its floodplain and provide essential habitat to endangered spring Chinook salmon and bull trout, as well as other native aquatic and terrestrial species. | 240,027 | Lane |
| 219-3002 | Sandy River Basin WC | Sandy-Salmon Floodplain Reconnecton Project | A levee will be partially removed and large wood structures will be placed instream to mimic natural log jams in the Salmon River and Sandy River confluence area. This will reconnect the river with its floodplain and open historic side-channels, which will disperse river energy across the floodplain and provide migratory and rearing habitat for native salmon. | 251,020 | Clackamas |
| 219-3004 | Friends of Buford Park & Mt Pisgah | Mt. Pisgah Oak-Pine Woodland, Oak Savanna, & Wet Prairie Restoration: Ponderosa Unit | Restoration and enhancement of wetland prairie, upland prairie, oak savanna, and oak woodland habitats across a 110-acre project site will benefit 17 at-risk native plant and wildlife species, including the Western meadowlark and acorn woodpecker, that depend on these habitat and are known to occur in the Mt. Pisgah area near Eugene, Oregon. | 199,492 | Lane |
| 219-3000 | Scappoose Bay WC | Lower North Scappoose Stream Enhancement | The amount and quality of stream habitat will be increased in the North Scappoose Creek for Chinook, coho, and steelhead fish by placing large wood instream and restoring a native plant community adjacent to the stream. | 85,939 | Columbia |
| Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff | | | | 861,849 | |

Restoration Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order

| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
|--|---------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------|
| | | None | | | |
| Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | 861,849 | |

Restoration Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT

| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County |
|-----------|---------|---------------|--------|--------|
| | | None | | |

Region 3 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

| Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 219-3009 | Molalla River Watch Inc. | Molalla Confluence Floodplain Restoration | Restoration opportunities will be identified and design solutions will be created to provide diverse habitats and improve water quality in the Molalla State Park for winter steelhead and spring Chinook, and other native fish and wildlife species. | 66,154 | Clackamas |
| 219-3007 | Marys River WC | Oak Creek | Design work will be completed to restore fish passage at four barriers on Oak Creek, located in Corvallis, Oregon. This will provide year-round access to stream habitat for cutthroat trout, and is the first step in building a landscape-scale strategy for the stewardship and enhancement of Oak Creek. | 74,997 | Benton |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff | | | | 141,151 | |
| Technical Assistance Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 219-3006 | Scappoose Bay WC | South Scappoose Creek, Reach F Design | Technical assistance will include stream survey work and modeling to produce permit-ready designs for stream restoration projects that will restore natural habitat for salmon production. | 37,867 | Columbia |
| 219-3008 | Clackamas SWCD | Delano Creek Fish Passage Design | Design work will be completed to replace a failing private farm crossing with a spanning bridge on Delano Creek, a tributary of Clear Creek. Replacing this fish passage barrier will benefit salmon habitat and protect water quality. | 35,742 | Clackamas |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | 214,760 | |
| Technical Assistance Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | | Amount | County |
| 219-3005 | Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership | Lower Eagle Creek Restoration Feasibility Assessment | | 74,989 | Hood River |

Region 3 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 219-3012 | Long Tom WC | Monroe Dam Alternative Selection | Stakeholder engagement will convene the City of Monroe community in evaluating alternatives for addressing fish passage at the Monroe dam, and collaboratively determine a solution that integrates economy, community, and watershed health | 82,462 | Benton |
| 219-3013 | Marys River WC | Oak Creek Stakeholder Engagement 2018 | A diverse group of Oak Creek landowners and other stakeholders will be engage in a collaborative process to determine strategies for stewardship in the Oak Creek watershed. | 43,126 | Benton |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff | | | | 125,588 | |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount | County |
| 219-3011 | Clackamas River Basin Council | Stakeholder Engagement for a Healthy Clackamas Watershed | The Healthy Clackamas Watershed program offers stakeholder engagement opportunities to recruit landowner participation in programs to restore native streamside vegetation and stream projects that support salmon recovery. | 12,577 | Clackamas |
| 219-3010 | Coast Fork Willamette WC | Drinking in the Coast Fork: Engaging Stakeholders to Enhance Water Quality | Landowners will be engaged in the development of restoration projects in Row River, Mosby Creek, and Upper Coast Fork Willamette watershed, which are drinking water sources for the City of Cottage Grove and the City of Creswell. Resulting projects will provide long-term protection of drinking water sources for these communities. | 38,295 | Lane |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT | | | | 163,883 | |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Not Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount | County |
| | | None | | | |
| Region 3 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award | | | | 1,128,588 | 12.23% |
| Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award | | | | 9,226,487 | |

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3000-16345

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower North Scappoose Stream Enhancement

Applicant: Scappoose Bay WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$82,531

Total Cost: \$172,534

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Project is located on lower North Scappoose Creek, a major tributary to Scappoose Bay, Multnomah Channel and the lower Columbia River. Project site is one mile upstream from the confluence of the North and South Scappoose creeks, just upstream of an identified Anchor Habitat reach. Project addresses key salmon-production limiting factors identified in the Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recover Plan (ODFW, 2011): 1) lack of physical habitat quality and complexity, including loss of floodplain connectivity and cool-water pools, and access to off channel habitat; and 2) the loss of complex riparian vegetative function and stream shading. Project will restore natural habitats on 0.3 miles of the main-stem of North Scappoose Creek by installing nine large-wood structures, constructing a bank lay-back along approximately 50 feet, and remove invasive vegetation and replant with native species on approximately 3.4 acres. Project outcomes support Lower Columbia River Fall Chinook, coho, and steelhead by extending high quality, lower-watershed habitat beyond Scappoose Bay and Multnomah Channel directly above tidal reaches. Partners include four private landowners, Bonneville Power Administration and ODFW.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project implements actions that are part of a recently completed watershed strategic action plan.
- The project site is located upstream of previously completed restoration, which expands habitat connectivity and increases the cost benefit of this project.
- Restoration will benefit ESA-listed fisheries and is supported by ODFW.
- This is a well thought out proposal with reasonable goals and a design that will restore channel complexity while also considering risks to nearby infrastructure. The proposed restoration design is site appropriate and technically sound.
- Landowners strongly support the proposed restoration, and the project is expected to build momentum for future stream restoration work.
- The contractor has relevant experience with similar projects.

Concerns

- The short project reach limits the scale of impact and results in a modest overall cost benefit for this restoration investment.

- The application budget lacks detail where costs are lump sums. Additional detail on construction costs would strengthen the application.
- The cost of large wood has been variable and difficult for the applicant to estimate in a grant budget; a potential increase in the cost may limit the number of large wood structures placed during project implementation. Adding a ten percent contingency to the large wood budget line item will increase the likelihood for success in achieving proposed ecological outcomes.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project implements restoration in a strategic action plan for the Scappoose Bay watershed, which is a priority area for ESA-listed fish. While the overall cost-benefit for this project is limited by the scale, the project is likely to build continued momentum for voluntary stream restoration that will increase the benefits from this investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Increased with Conditions

Review Team Priority

5 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$85,939

Review Team Conditions

Add 10% contingency to log structures in Materials and Supplies and associated indirect costs. This increases grant by \$3,408.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund Increased with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$85,939

Staff Conditions

Add 10% contingency to log structures in Materials and Supplies and associated indirect costs. This increases grant by \$3,408.

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3001-16368

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Camas Swale Restoration:
Neighbors Working Together

Applicant: Coast Fork Willamette WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$85,371

Total Cost: \$127,115

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Salyers Family Ranch and Spencer Shadow Ranch are located southwest of Eugene and northwest of Creswell within Lane County in the Lower Coast Fork Willamette watershed. These neighboring privately owned properties are uncommon in the highly populated Willamette Valley because of their size, ~2200 acres combined, and are home to large scale oak and prairie habitats. The project site is located along a major fork of Camas Swale Creek which flows through both ranches. The project site has been impacted by grazing livestock that have removed much of the stream side vegetation, compacted and disturbed soils, and broken down banks, resulting in both channel incision and the widening of stream channels. Degradation of these systems has continued by the colonization of invasive plants, reducing the habitat suitability for wildlife. This 9.66-acre project will address habitat for native species through management of invasive vegetation, planting native vegetation, and initial plant establishment to ensure project success and sustainability. A diverse selection of native species will be planted to increase plant diversity. Re-establishing a native riparian buffer and fencing off the waterways along Camas Swale will benefit fish and wildlife habitat and improve water quality by shading the water, filtering out fine sediments and nutrients and result in a more resilient habitat in the face of climate change. Project partners include Farm Services Agency CREP, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Salyers Family Ranch, Spencer Shadow Ranch, and Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed restoration extends from the upper and lower ends of a completed OWEB project, which will extend habitat connectivity to over 2 miles of restored riparian vegetation.
- The project is located in a Conservation Opportunity Area adjacent to other protected natural areas and near an urban area.
- Restoration will benefit habitat for aquatic and wildlife species, including a Species of Concern, the Oregon Vesper Sparrow.
- Lessons learned from the completed OWEB project are integrated into the proposed project design.
- The project leverages a CREP investment, which is particularly important and timely since the property will no longer be CREP-eligible once it is under a conservation easement as planned.
- This project is a compelling example of Oregon's voluntary watershed approach in which working with a landowner leads to continued restoration on neighboring lands. There are also potential future opportunities for prairie and woodland oak savannah habitat restoration that could expand from this stream focused project.

- The contractor has relevant experience with similar projects.

Concerns

- The riparian planting design is unusual because it is designed with fewer trees to minimize potential impacts to Oregon Vesper Sparrows that need open plant community structure. While this is a reasonable approach to restore habitat for this Species of Concern, the project would benefit from increased plant diversity. The applicant is strongly encouraged to increase plant diversity in the final planting plan.
- The application budget would be strengthened by further details on the planting plan and how OWEB and CREP funds will be used. Plans for these funds were adequately explained during the application review site visit.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed restoration is a straightforward project that extends habitat connectivity on a large landscape scale. Implementation of this project is urgent in order to use existing match that is time limited. Landowners have demonstrated commitment to land stewardship, including assisting with recruiting neighbors to participate in voluntary restoration that further extends habitat benefit of this investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$85,371

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$85,371

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3002-16407

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Sandy-Salmon Floodplain
Reconnecton Project

Applicant: Sandy River Basin WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$251,020

Total Cost: \$851,062

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Sandy Salmon Floodplain Reconnection will restore wild salmon habitat and enhance community resiliency in a priority Oregon basin for recovery of threatened Lower Columbia River wild salmon and steelhead that is vulnerable to climate change driven storms, flooding and erosion. Restoring the floodplain at the confluence of the Sandy and Salmon Rivers represents one of the largest and most potentially productive restoration opportunities in the Sandy River basin, identified as a top restoration priority in basin- and reach-scale plans. Levees built after the Sandy's record flood in 1964 isolated key floodplain and side channel habitat. Portions of the levees are vulnerable to failure from long-term erosion. The project site partially breached already in a moderate October 2017 storm flow. Climate models project more severe and frequent storms. Adjacent roads, bridges, water and sewer systems, and homes have been damaged or threatened by previous floods. Proposed restoration actions will alter levees to restore floodplain and side channel habitat, add large wood structures mimicking natural log jams, and restore riparian vegetation to enhance habitat and disperse river energy across the floodplain.. Resulting reconnected floodplain habitat will provide migratory and rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids, addressing reach prioritie for limiting factors specified by restoration plans, and building toward basin scale connectivity in the main stem Sandy and its tributaries. Project partners include Bureau of Land Management and Clackamas County, primary land owners, Portland Water Bureau, which holds a conservation easement on a portion of the project, as well as local residents.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Key watershed limiting factors will be addressed in a high priority watershed for ESA-listed fish, and the proposed restoration may potentially address climate change impacts.
- Proposed restoration is a top priority and top tier action identified in the Sandy Basin Partners' action plan.
- The project builds from an OWEB Technical Assistance project and demonstrates thoughtful consideration of issues for the Sandy basin, such as failing levees and lack of floodplain connectivity. The design process included a technically sound risk assessment, which resulted in a solution that balances public safety and ecological needs.
- The project engineer has relevant experience with similar projects in this watershed.
- Significant community support for the project was demonstrated by active stakeholder participation in the application review site visit.

- The watershed council has expanded their capacity by hiring new staff to manage and focus on this large-scale, complex project.

Concerns

- Discussion of deliverables in the application narrative and metrics sections is unclear.
- There is some uncertainty in how the stream will respond to the proposed restoration activities. A considerable amount of work is proposed for a small footprint that appears to be designed to micromanage watershed processes at the site. As a result, the proposed restoration design moves away from a natural watershed process restoration approach.
- The budget for permits seems low for what the actual cost will likely be on a complex floodplain project.
- It is unclear from the application budget how some match items are necessary for implementing the proposed restoration goals and objectives, such as trail cameras and laptop.
- Further description of outreach project components and how they are necessary for implementing the proposed restoration goals and objectives would strengthen the application.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed restoration is a significant project in a priority basin for ESA-listed fish. Despite uncertainty with the design approach, the proposed restoration solution balances potential habitat gains in a challenging stream system that has limited restoration options. It also balances cost limitations associated with complete versus partial levee removal. The levee is already starting to fail; an intentional and affordable partial levee removal will unravel its impacts in a measured, careful manner that will create conditions for fish while ensuring landowner comfort with the project. Given the contractor's previous experience and approach to stream restoration, there is benefit in investing in this project to learn from the results of the proposed strategy regarding the levees in a challenging and dynamic stream system.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$251,020

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$251,020

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3003-16409

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Coal Creek Floodplain Restoration

Applicant: Middle Fork Willamette WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$242,027

Total Cost: \$488,822

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed project is located on lower Coal Creek at its confluence with the Upper Middle Fork Willamette River, approximately 25 miles south of Oakridge, OR. This section of Coal Creek lies in an unconfined valley with an average gradient of less than two percent. With those characteristics, Coal Creek should be functioning as a depositional reach, but due to anthropogenic impacts stemming from timber harvest practices such as road construction and stream cleaning, it now functions as a transport reach. This transformation in stream processes has caused Coal Creek to incise, leaving the floodplain mostly disconnected, which has resulted in an absence of off-channel habitat, altered vegetation types, a lowered water table, and other detrimental impacts to native fish and wildlife and the ecosystem. Through this project, we seek to reconnect the floodplain to Coal Creek by removing berms along the 0.3-mile stream reach and matching elevations across the 20-acre project area. We will also place as many as 580 pieces of large wood, some with rootwads, throughout the floodplain to spread and slow flow. This will return Coal Creek and its floodplain to a dynamic depositional environment which can provide essential habitat to ESA-threatened populations of spring Chinook salmon and bull trout, as well as many other native aquatic and terrestrial species. The Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council and the US Forest Service Middle Fork Ranger District are partnering on this project, with technical assistance from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed restoration will benefit ESA-listed bull trout.
- A process-based restoration design will reset natural watershed processes that allow water to flow across the floodplain; and materials, including wood and sediment, to deposit naturally on the floodplain. This design approach is feasible because there is no concern for impacting infrastructure. It also incorporates lessons learned from recent implementation of a similar project in the same watershed, integrates active recreation needs, and is based on extensive GIS analysis.
- The interdisciplinary project team has proven experience with related restoration efforts.
- The project is supported by engaged partners, which is demonstrated by letters of support.
- The project cost is reasonable for the watershed benefits.
- The application is well written and includes effective use of maps to describe the project and watershed context.
- The project includes effectiveness monitoring by measuring channel conditions at 100 random points.

- Future project phases are likely to be funded by USFS using timber receipts.

Concerns

- An old engineered log jam design is included in the application that does not appear to be part of the proposed project.
- The impact of proposed restoration is somewhat limited by the project's location above a dam.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project builds on an effective stream restoration approach with proven results in similar stream conditions. The cost benefit to watershed process and habitat has been demonstrated by previous efforts, and this benefit will be further leveraged by future projects planned in the watershed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$242,027

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Staff reviewed the application budget and determined costs associated with student education is not eligible for OWEB funding because the primary purpose of the associated tasks is education instead of activities necessary for the watershed restoration work as required in ORS 541.956.

Staff Recommendation

Fund Reduced

Staff Recommended Amount

\$240,027

Staff Conditions

Remove "Bus transportation for student field trips to site" from Contracted Services, and "Education

Coordinator” from Salaries, Wages and Benefits.

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3004-16414

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Mt. Pisgah Oak-Pine Woodland,
Oak Savanna, & Wet Prairie Restoration:
Ponderosa Unit

Applicant: Friends of Buford Park & Mt Pisgah

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$199,492

Total Cost: \$501,492

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Project is located on the eastern portion of Lane County's 2,218-acre Buford Park (aka Howard Buford Recreation Area) near confluence of Willamette's Coast and Middle Forks, and adjacent to The Nature Conservancy's 1305-acre "Willamette Confluence Preserve." Buford Park contains one of Oregon's largest expanse of publicly-owned "globally endangered" Willamette Valley upland prairie and oak savanna (OWEB priority habitats). Decades of fire suppression have contributed to encroachment by Douglas fir. In addition, invasive species (blackberry, Scot'sbroom, etc) have degraded native botanical diversity and wildlife habitat. This project will restore and enhance wetland prairie, upland prairie, oak savanna, and oak woodland habitats across the 110-acre "Ponderosa" Management Unit on Buford Park. Management actions will thin Douglas fir and exotic trees to achieve desired tree densities to: 1) restore rare oak-pine woodland on 11 acres; 2) restore wetland prairie on 3 acres; 3) restore upland prairie on 7 acres; 4) restore oak woodland on 34 acres; 5) restore oak savanna on 37 acres; 6) enhance conifer forest on 16 acres 7) manage invasive herbaceous and shrub species (blackberry, Scot's broom, etc.); 8) prepare a burn plan and implement an ecological burn; and 9) broadcast site-specific seed mixes of grasses and forbs in areas of invasive control and tree removal to increase botanical diversity, as well as forage and structure for wildlife. These actions are expected to benefit 17 at-risk species known to occur in the Mt. Pisgah area that depend on these prairie, oak savanna and oak woodland habitats, including the Western meadowlark and acorn woodpecker. Effectiveness monitoring is not planned. We will assess pre- and post-project native vegetation and document with photo-monitoring. OWEB funds will be used for salaries and wages, contracted services, mileage, supplies, grant administration.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project is well planned, implements an action from a draft management plan, builds on previous restoration work, and utilizes appropriate restoration methods.
- The site is a priority for oak and prairie dependent species because it is located in a Conservation Opportunity Area and provides opportunity for habitat connectivity across a larger landscape context with nearby conservation properties.
- The ecological burn plan is technically sound.
- The project team has relevant experience with this type of restoration, and has experience in working with local mills.

- Partner support is demonstrated with match and letters of support.
- The application addresses previous regional review team concerns.
- Overall project cost is reasonable compared to other oak habitat projects.

Concerns

- The proposed restoration will have limited overall benefit to legacy oak trees.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project is time sensitive for the tree thinning component to capture market value on these trees to reinvest in restoration before their value is lost. Since the project is located in a highly visible park, it offers an opportunity to demonstrate effective use of fire on the landscape as a restoration tool. This could help landowners become more comfortable with fire as a management tool and may result in adoption of similar practices on their lands.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$199,492

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$199,492

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3005-16327

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Lower Eagle Creek Restoration
Feasibility Assessment

Applicant: Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Hood River

OWEB Request: \$74,989

Total Cost: \$116,074

Project Abstract *(from application)*

LCEP requests \$74,987 to complete a feasibility assessment of restoring the cold water refuge provided by lower Eagle Creek to returning adult Columbia River salmon and steelhead and fish passage in the creek to 1.2 miles of high quality salmon and lamprey spawning and rearing habitat. In 2011, the University of Idaho documented Eagle Creek as an important cold water refuge, and in 2017, USEPA identified Eagle Creek as a primary cold water refuge stream for their draft Columbia River Cold Water Refuge Plan. The quantity and quality of instream and floodplain habitat for local and upriver salmon, steelhead, and lamprey is highly restricted in Eagle Creek because of the ODFW Cascade Hatchery; the immensely popular Eagle Creek trail system and its parking infrastructure; and I-84. Hatchery and recreational infrastructure constrict Eagle Creek's historic floodplain and alluvial fan. To operate the hatchery, ODFW withdraws water from Eagle Creek using a diversion dam, which eliminates upstream fish passage to 1.2 miles of high quality spawning and rearing habitat and dewateres approximately 0.5 miles of the creek downstream during summer and early fall. Also, the hatchery diversion increases downstream temperatures by 1.8-3.8°C during the prime period when returning adult salmonids use cold water refuges. We will assess restoration alternatives to improve: 1) instream processes - channel/floodplain surface water connections, hyporheic exchange, cold water refuges, and sediment transport; 2) hatchery operations; 3) riparian conditions; and 4) recreational experience. Alternatives will be chosen by a stakeholder group, including USFS and ODFW, and taken through concept designs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will benefit cold water refugia and the multiple anadromous fish species that rely on this habitat.
- The proposal is a well thought out project with lots of moving parts, concepts, and designs, including concepts for fish hatchery improvements, managing recreation at a popular location, and addressing impacts from a fire.

Concerns

- The application does not include a letter of support from ODFW, which owns the fish hatchery that will be impacted by this project.

- Since any restoration solution is likely to have a high cost, the application would benefit from a description of strategies for securing implementation funds.
- The application would be strengthened by a description of a vision for balancing social aspects, such as recreation, with restoring fish habitat.
- It may be too soon to fully understand the impacts of the Eagle Creek fire; as a result, it may be premature to begin planning a restoration strategy. It is also unclear whether the timing of this project aligns with reopening recreation trails after the Eagle Creek fire.

Concluding Analysis

The application may be premature since it is unclear what the vision is for a solution and whether the landowner stakeholders, including USFS and ODFW, are ready to assess restoration alternatives. The applicant should consider a Stakeholder Engagement project proposal to work with potential partners and build buy-in on a common vision for a restoration solution on Eagle Creek that integrates fire recovery, recreation, fish habitat, and fish hatchery operations.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3006-16346

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: South Scappoose Creek, Reach F Design

Applicant: Scappoose Bay WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$37,867

Total Cost: \$48,215

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Project is located in South Scappoose Creek, a tributary to Scappoose Bay, the Multnomah Channel and Lower Columbia River. The site is approximately one mile above the confluence of the North and South Scappoose Creeks; less than three miles above tidal influence in Scappoose Bay. Project addresses key salmon-production limiting factors identified in the Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan (LCRCP; ODFW, 2011), the Upper Willamette River Conservation and Recovery Plan (UWRCP; ODFW, 2011), and the Scappoose Creek Limiting Factor Analysis (SBWC, 2012): 1) lack of physical habitat quality and complexity, including loss of floodplain connectivity and cool-water pools and access to off-channel habitat; and 2) the loss of complex riparian vegetative function and stream shading. Project will complete surveys, hydraulic modeling, and a permit-level design with cost estimates to restore natural habitats on 0.2 miles of South Scappoose. This project supports restoration actions on 0.7 miles directly upstream, currently under construction. Partners include City of Scappoose, a private landowner, CSWCD, ODFW and BPA.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Technical Assistance will lead to restoration that addresses key production limiting factors for ESA-listed fish.
- The project builds on adjacent stream channel restoration work currently underway.
- The applicant has a technically sound idea of how to approach channel complexity in this area.
- The project is at a highly visible location that offers outreach benefits for raising public awareness about stream restoration.

Concerns

- The application has limited detail on project site context and the expected Technical Assistance products; however, the site visit provided context to better understand the project.
- There are limited stream restoration options because of the potential risk to adjacent park infrastructure and downstream housing, which limits ecological benefits for the cost.

Concluding Analysis

Site constraints limit the potential footprint for restoration, which limits the ecological uplift from this investment. Given this limitation, the applicant is trying to take advantage of feasible opportunities and is building contiguous stream habitat from previous restoration work. Since the location is highly visible, it offers a potential social and outreach benefit that may lead to community buy-in and future restoration opportunities that will further leverage this investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$37,867

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3007-16377

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Oak Creek

Applicant: Marys River WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Benton

OWEB Request: \$74,997

Total Cost: \$121,129

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The upper reach of Oak Creek is rated highly by Marys River Watershed Council and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for cutthroat trout habitat. Fish passage barriers in the middle reach make much of the system inaccessible to fish during the summer months and the uppermost headwaters are blocked year-round by an upper-reach barrier. This project will provide designs for fish passable culvert replacements in advance of planned implementation in 2019. The project will also provide alternative designs for two additional barriers, from which MRWC and the participating stakeholders will select preferred alternatives to move forward for restoration implementation. Because these barriers are complicated by current uses, impingement from infrastructure, multiple stakeholders and decision makers and the long funding cycles associated with research being conducted nearby, multiple conceptual alternatives will be developed for each. From the two alternatives at OSU's College of Forestry research weir and the three alternatives at OSU's College of Agriculture pop-up dam, a preferred alternative will be chosen for each, which will be moved forward for completed designs and implementation funding. The removal of these barriers will provide year-round access to high quality habitat for cutthroat trout and represents an important first step in the stewardship and enhancement of Oak Creek, which will be further cemented through MRWC's Oak Creek Stakeholders Engagement project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The resulting restoration project will remove four instream barriers and provide habitat benefits to multiple native fish species. These fish passage barriers were identified as a top priority in a county GIS analysis.
- A landscape scale design approach will be used that balances multiple land use types, including forest, agriculture, and rural residential.
- A multidisciplinary team will provide technical review of the resulting designs.
- The project is supported by engaged partners with clear roles and match contributions.
- The application is well-written and thorough.
- The Technical Assistance project will promote public awareness that may lead to future restoration opportunities.

Concerns

- A resulting restoration project may have a high cost for the ecological benefit due to site constraints.
- A lack of Best Management Practices in the OSU dairy farm management may be negatively affecting water quality in Oak Creek, which limits the ecological benefit of this proposed instream project.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project offers a unique opportunity to work with stakeholders, including OSU, to engage in stream restoration. This Technical Assistance project, in combination with a proposed Stakeholder Engagement project, has a high likelihood of success for generating watershed restoration benefits that leverage from this initial fish passage design stream component.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,997

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$74,997

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3008-16387

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Delano Creek Fish Passage Design

Applicant: Clackamas SWCD

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$35,742

Total Cost: \$50,851

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The purpose of this application is to design a project to both remove a fish passage barrier and eliminate a potential sediment source from Delano Creek, a tributary of Clear Creek. Delano Creek is designated as Essential Salmon Habitat and Critical Habitat for Lower Willamette Coho Salmon and Steelhead. The implemented design will replace a failing private farm crossing with a spanning bridge (or another type of crossing that meets objectives). The fish passage barrier is located within the DeLano Farms LLC property; a 200 acre beef cattle ranch and a Century Farm. The crossing, which was installed in the 1950's and is vital to the farm operation, is an undersized and failing culvert. The culvert is also greatly perched and is a barrier to juvenile and adult fish. Over the past two winters, the culvert has begun to erode and will likely fail in the next several years, risking erosion of 1300 cubic yards of road fill above the culvert into Delano Creek, Clear Creek, and the Clackamas River. Because this stretch of stream is considered Essential Salmon Habitat, any replacement must meet fish passage guidelines. As a result, this farm's plan to replace the culvert became infeasible as the additional cost for passage made solutions prohibitively expensive. The farm manager reached out to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Clackamas River Basin Council (CRBC) and Clackamas SWCD for assistance once it became clear that the repair would exceed their available resources. This project will result in permit-ready engineering designs to address fish passage and grade stabilization with fish habitats elements, all while enabling the farm operation to operate safely and economically. Partners include DeLano Farms LLC, CRBC, ODFW, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the US Forest Service, from which Retained Receipts funding has been secured to help offset construction costs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed Technical Assistance will address fish passage and alleviate risk of sediment mass wasting that would impact water quality and Lower Willamette Coho and steelhead populations.
- The application is reasonably thought out.
- Since there is a funding source available for implementation, the proposed restoration is ready to implement after this proposed design work is completed.

Concerns

- A resulting restoration project is likely to have a high cost for the ecological benefit.

- The application would be strengthened by a letter of support from the landowner, discussion on whether alternative and potentially more cost-effective crossing locations are feasible, and description of the extent and quality of aquatic habitat upstream of the crossing.

Concluding Analysis

Delano Creek is a tributary of Clear Creek, which is a secondary priority for ESA-listed fish in the Clackamas watershed. Replacing the current culvert that has a risk of failing is a significant benefit to the watershed by mitigating potential future negative effects of sediment to ESA-listed fish and water quality.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$35,742

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3009-16395

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Molalla Confluence Floodplain Restoration

Applicant: Molalla River Watch Inc

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$66,154

Total Cost: \$115,404

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Molalla River State Park (MRSP), is comprised of 450 acres of floodplain habitat and 4.4 miles of river frontage, and is located near Canby, Oregon at the confluence of the Molalla, Pudding, and Willamette Rivers. This confluence area is a biodiversity hotspot due to dynamic physical processes that drive ecosystem productivity. However habitat conditions have been affected by past land management within the site and upstream contributing to reduced water quality, blocked habitat access, reduced habitat complexity, and degraded riparian plant communities as limiting factors for fish and wildlife. Molalla River Watch (MRW) and Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept. (OPRD) have begun collaborating with consultants, agencies, and researchers to develop plans to increase summer thermal refuge for listed fish, floodplain inundation depths and duration to increase winter refuge, increase habitat complexity for multiple species, and preserve the floodplain forest at MRSP. MRW and OPRD seek to identify preferred restoration opportunities and create design solutions for actions that: 1) address limiting factors for winter steelhead and spring Chinook, specifically habitat access, habitat complexity, and water quality at the site; 2) benefit other key fish and wildlife species; 3) Provide opportunities to improve public natural resource education. Funding will be used to hire a qualified consulting firm to implement:

- Site Investigations: collate data, desktop analysis, topographic characterization, hydrologic and geomorphic analyses, temperature investigation, other investigations as needed.
- Alternatives Analysis: refine goals and objectives, define alternatives and evaluation criteria; evaluate alternatives.
- 30% Design and Budgeting (including additional data collection or modelling needed to refine selected alternative).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located at a priority confluence area, which is a high value area for ESA-listed fish.
- There is a clear need to assess opportunities and river dynamics to target a restoration strategy over a large landscape.
- The proposed project is comprehensive and will not impose an engineered stability approach to habitat restoration; instead it will encourage natural watershed process restoration.
- Oregon Parks is an actively involved landowner and partner in the project.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by the inclusion of photos.
- The applicant has not engaged with the adjacent landowner about the project.

Concluding Analysis

The project location is both culturally and ecologically significant. There is a high likelihood that Native Americans used this location. Also, the project is a large scale landownership where three river floodplains converge, and the waterways within it have significant cold water refugia for fish. There is opportunity for restoration to expand beyond the state park ownership, which further expands potential benefits from this investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$66,154

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$66,154

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3010-16372

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Drinking in the Coast Fork:
Engaging Stakeholders to Enhance Water Quality

Applicant: Coast Fork Willamette WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$38,295

Total Cost: \$59,370

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council (CFWWC) continues to work collaboratively with our many partners to recruit stakeholders and encourage new projects. The Council is in the process of finalizing an updated 10 year Action Plan that prioritizes work throughout the watershed. The result of this work has selected key areas that will provide the most ecologically significant impact for restoration and enhancement. This project seeks to recruit stakeholders in the prioritized regions of the Row River, Mosby Creek, and Upper Coast Fork Willamette watersheds. These sensitive areas are drinking water sources for both the City of Cottage Grove (approximately 10,000 residents) and the City of Creswell (approximately 4,500 residents). This work is essential for the long term protection of drinking water sources for the communities reliant on the Willamette River for drinking water. Project Partners include the City of Cottage Grove, the City of Creswell, U.S. Forest Service – Cottage Grove Ranger District, private landowners, and the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project outreach plan is based on source water protection, and landowner engagement methods have proven success.
- The watershed council is well suited to serve as an ambassador bridging the urban and rural divide, and has a proven track record in effectively communicating with these stakeholders.
- A letter of support from the City of Cottage Grove is included in the application.
- A partnership with McKenzie River Trust leverages an effective team approach to engaging with landowners, including peer to peer conversations among farmers.
- Resulting restoration project development will be beneficial to the watershed.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by additional detail, including an explanation of the “living on the land” workshops and where the cities obtain their drinking water.
- A letter of support from the City of Creswell and state agencies involved in source water protection, such as DEQ, would strengthen the application.

- The application would be improved by further description of the target project benefits, including whether the primary project benefit is drinking water protection or fish habitat, how water quantity limitations affect the project, and the potential cost/benefit given the large project scale.
- The pathway from the Stakeholder Engagement project to an eligible restoration project is unclear; the application would be strengthened by an explanation on what is expected beyond the Stakeholder Engagement outreach activities and how they connect to a restoration implementation project.

Concluding Analysis

While the project is likely to succeed by using effective outreach strategies to recruit landowners for voluntary restoration, the specific watershed benefits expected to result from the investment are unclear.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$38,295

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3011-16401

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Stakeholder Engagement for a Healthy Clackamas Watershed

Applicant: Clackamas River Basin Council

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$12,577

Total Cost: \$20,952

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) The Healthy Clackamas Watershed Project (HCW Project) is located in the lower Clackamas River basin from its confluence to RM24. Priority tributaries include: Clear, Deep, & Eagle Creeks, all located in Clackamas County. 2) Engaging people and their lands in the Clackamas River Watershed are important for salmon recovery efforts and for improving and protecting the source of drinking water for over 10% of all Oregonians. The Clackamas River provides migration corridor and rearing habitat for ESA-listed Chinook & Coho salmon and steelhead. Extensive loss of critical habitat for these species has made habitat protection and restoration in the lower Clackamas River a priority. Limiting factors impacting fish populations in the lower river are channel stability, habitat diversity, pesticides, sediment loads and water temperatures. Population growth in Clackamas County as also added pressure to the watershed. 3) The HCW Project offers stakeholder engagement opportunities to address these limitations in the watershed by (i) engaging basin residents and their properties in available riparian restoration programs, and (ii) enlisting key properties for future riparian restoration projects benefiting salmon recovery. Engagement activities will build on the momentum generated through our Shade Our Streams program which has removed weeds and planted riparian forests on 30 miles of Clackamas tributaries and mainstem to date. Direct mailings, fact sheets, 1:1 meetings, workshops & tours have enlisted >150 eligible & willing landowners for riparian enhancements & habitat restoration projects totaling 30 miles of plantings. 4) Partners include: Clackamas River Water Providers, CSWCD, and Clackamas County Water Environment Services.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed activities align with ESA-listed fish recovery and watershed action plans for the basin.
- The project is cost-effective and provides potential for future watershed restoration projects.
- The timeline is reasonable.
- The applicant has a proven track record with this work and the staff have relevant experience.
- A broad list of landowners in the application indicates the applicant is working with appropriate stakeholders for this Stakeholder Engagement project.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by additional information on the type of land ownership in the project area, the total number of target landowners, how high priority areas are defined and what percentage of landowners are in those priority locations, and the connection between this Stakeholder Engagement project and the applicant's action plan.
- It is unclear whether mailers are an effective outreach tool for recruiting landowners.
- The pathway from the Stakeholder Engagement project to an eligible restoration project is unclear; the application would be strengthened by an explanation on what is expected beyond the Stakeholder Engagement outreach activities and how they connect to a restoration implementation project.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project is likely to lead to future restoration work with landowners. The extent of the impact from this Stakeholder Engagement investment is unclear from the application without information on how it will effectively target landowners for high priority restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$12,577

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3012-16403 **Project Type:** Stakeholder Engagement
Project Name: Monroe Dam Alternative Selection
Applicant: Long Tom WC
Region: Willamette Basin **County:** Benton
OWEB Request: \$82,462 **Total Cost:** \$360,671

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Fish passage at the dam on the Long Tom River in Monroe (Benton County) is a keystone project for the entire watershed. The Monroe dam is at river mile seven from the Willamette River, the lowest of three check-dams that block access for juvenile spring Chinook, cutthroat trout, Pacific lamprey and other species to over 100 miles of habitat in the lower section of the Long Tom River watershed. There are 15+ miles of rearing habitat for ESA-listed spring Chinook between the Monroe dam and the next upstream check-dam. Activities include engaging the community in evaluating alternatives for the dam and addressing questions necessary for a majority of Monroe City Councilors and influential citizens to agree to a fish passage solution in collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). This requires engaging the decision-makers in a productive process toward outcomes with the greatest watershed benefit that meet community needs, and includes providing decision-makers a fair understanding of what the community will accept. Activities will address multiple learning styles and include information, presentations, work sessions, visuals and technical answers, and engaging people in gathering fish monitoring data, and surveys. Outcomes are 1) citizens increasing their knowledge and support for restoring fish passage along the river, 2) an informed decision-process and fish passage solution for the Monroe site, and 3) community partnership with key collaborators for ongoing environmental and community benefit in this small town. Partners include the Corps, City of Monroe, area farmers and riverside landowners, local business-owners, local organizations, UO RARE program, ODFW, Hewlett Foundation. This is Phase 2 after a successfully completed Phase I grant. The Hewlett Foundation has committed significant funding to match LTWC through the development of fish passage solutions for all three check-dams with the first and most difficult engagement-wise being Monroe.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Addressing fish passage at Monroe Dam is identified as the number one priority for the Long Tom watershed by the watershed council, ODFW, NMFS, City of Monroe, and US Army Corps; and will provide high ecological value because access will be restored to over 15 stream miles of fish habitat for salmonids and lamprey with potential for an additional 100 miles if two upstream dams are addressed.
- The Stakeholder Engagement activities focus on presenting design results from a Technical Assistance project for the purpose of communicating and engaging with community members about the need for a project at Monroe Dam, and building buy-in necessary for moving to implementation of this restoration project.
- A diversity of partners supports the project, which is demonstrated by match.

- The application is well written with well-defined goals and objectives, and budget details.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by more detail on the pathway connecting the Stakeholder Engagement activities to the eligible restoration project.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project is a timely and unique opportunity for building on momentum to address fish passage at the Monroe Dam. It is important to carefully and thoughtfully carry out communication with the community regarding stream restoration at this location to successfully move to project implementation. This is also a potential demonstration project that provides an example of how to work with stakeholders around a complicated issue to identify and build buy-in for a solution that integrates economy, community, and watershed health.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$82,462

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$82,462

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3013-16406

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Oak Creek Stakeholder Engagement 2018

Applicant: Marys River WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Benton

OWEB Request: \$43,126

Total Cost: \$88,942

Project Abstract *(from application)*

MWRC's Stakeholder Engagement project brings a diverse group of Oak Creek landowners and other stakeholders into a collaboration to steward and enhance the Oak Creek watershed. The high value habitat found in the headwaters of Oak Creek and the central place the watershed holds in the community make tackling the challenging issues in the system highly worthwhile for the health of the watershed and the community that stewards it. The challenge of building a watershed-scale stewardship approach with the diversity of stakeholders, land uses and limiting factors as are found in Oak Creek is fundamental to why such an effort has not been undertaken heretofore. Through extensive outreach by MRWC and a convergence of readiness on the part of basin stakeholders, most of the key stakeholders are now committed to participate in the facilitated stakeholder meetings and in the working groups that will be formed from the planning process. This group is therefore poised to engage in the collaboration with limited further outreach needed. While the three collaboration planning meetings will provide the opportunity for all stakeholders to weigh in on watershed priorities and individual landowner/partner Oak Creek stewardship goals, the working groups will move on-the-ground implementation projects forward. These groups will meet separately to identify and plan for specific restoration actions at specific sites. Likely working groups include fish passage projects, water quality enhancement projects and oak & prairie restoration. In addition, the project will support exploration of an urban green infrastructure program that will not only benefit Oak Creek, but the larger Corvallis urban streams and stakeholders as well. It will also support the establishment of an Oak Creek landing page on the Institute for Natural Resources' Oregon Explorer platform and will engage Oak Creek and other community members in an Oak Creek-focused forum presented by MRWC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed watershed scale project is possible due to the breadth of stakeholders involved and committed to the work.
- The application is well written and clearly explains the causes of watershed problems and the need for action.
- The project is likely to lead to eligible on the ground restoration projects, including projects that will provide water quality benefits.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by additional information on the Oregon Explorer project element and how it is necessary for achieving the goals and objectives of this Stakeholder Engagement project.
- The pathway from the Stakeholder Engagement project to an eligible restoration project is unclear; the application would be strengthened by an explanation on what is expected beyond the Stakeholder Engagement outreach activities and how they connect to a restoration implementation project.

Concluding Analysis

Oak Creek is a significant community and ecological resource. This Stakeholder Engagement project, in combination with the proposed Technical Assistance project, has a high likelihood of success for generating watershed restoration with multiple watershed benefits to Oak Creek.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$43,126

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

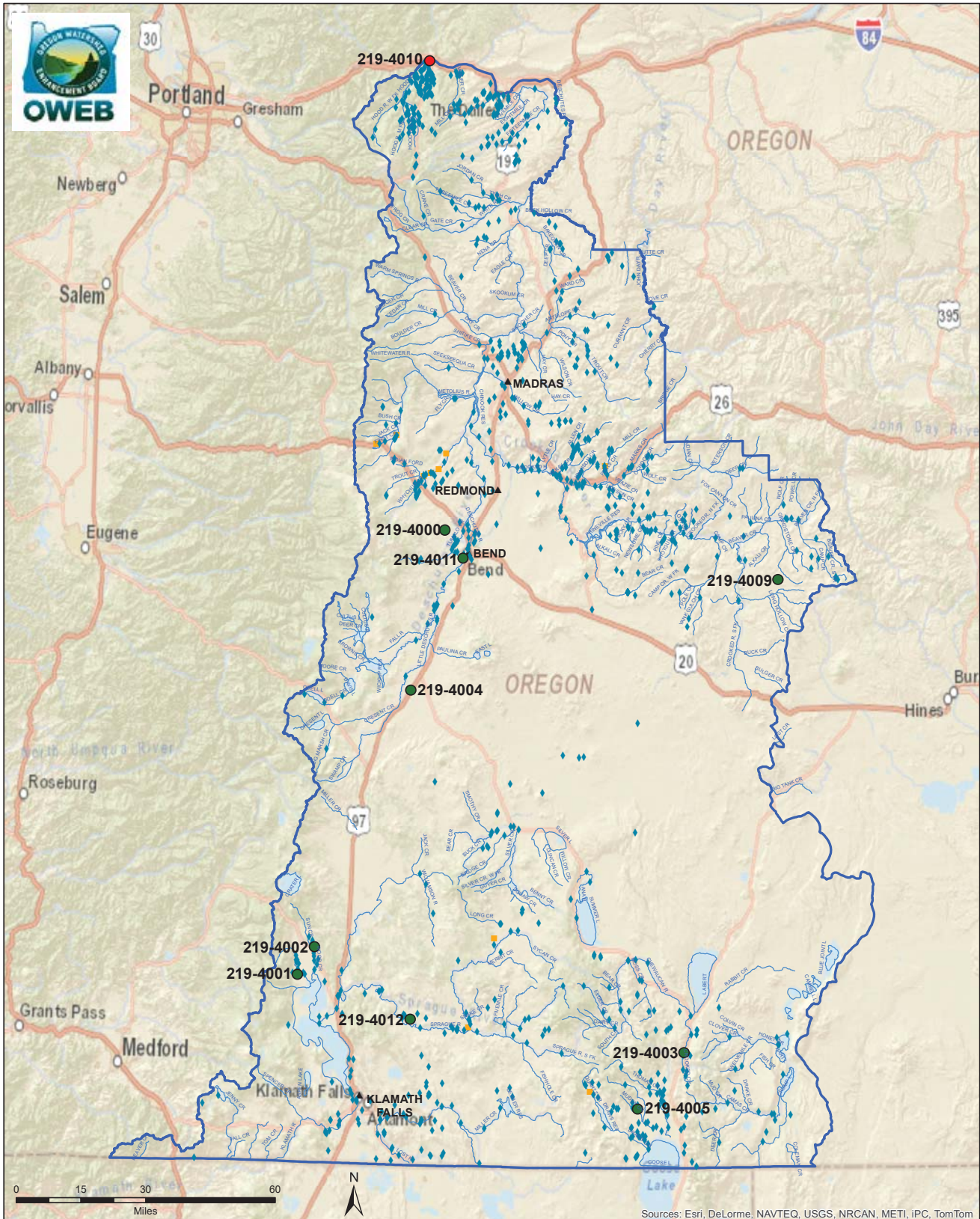
Staff Recommended Amount

\$43,126

Staff Conditions

None

Central Oregon - Region 4 Spring 2018 Funding Recommendations



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 ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB- PK Wils 20180925

Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, NRCAN, METI, IPC, TomTom

Funding Recommendations

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

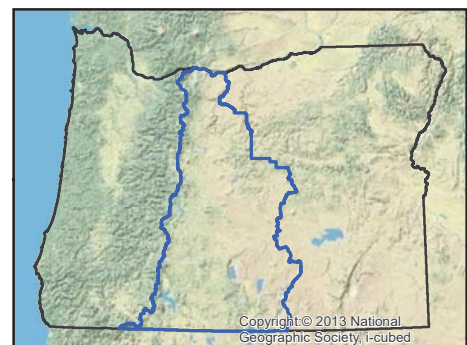
Previous Grants - 1998-2017

- ◆ Restoration
- Acquisitions
- ~ Streams
- ⬡ Region Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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Region 4 - Central Oregon

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
|-----------|--|--|---|--------------------|---------|
| 219-4003 | Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council | North Warner Forest Health Phase II | This landscape-scale forest health and resiliency project will continue forest treatments across 8,000 acres (OWEB funding 1,600 acres) in phase II on private lands within the North Warner Multi-Ownership Forest Health Project. | 543,714 | Lake |
| 219-4002 | Trout Unlimited Inc | Wood River Ditch Fish Screen | A 26 cfs diversion along the Upper Wood River will receive a new fish screen to exclude native fish from being entrained in the associated irrigation canals. This project complements past screening projects completed along the Upper Wood River. | 50,744 | Klamath |
| 219-4001 | Trout Unlimited Inc | Threemile-Crane Creek Reconnect Phase 1 | The project will reconnect approximately one mile of Crane Creek into its historic configuration through the Bureau of Reclamations (BOR) property. This project is the kick-off to a large multi-phased approach to restore and reconnect critical habitat for the Upper Klamath Lake bull trout population. | 119,530 | Klamath |
| 219-4004 | Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation | Gilchrist Wildlife Undercrossing | Five miles of Highway 97 will be fenced (both sides) to funnel wildlife to two undercrossings as part of Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) highway extension project near Gilchrist. | 93,148 | Klamath |
| 219-4005 | Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council | Muddy Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement Project | A multitude of benefits will be achieved along Muddy Creek below juniper reservoir, including providing fish passage at three barriers and improving instream and riparian habitats through channel modification, planting and fencing. | 238,341 | Lake |

Region 4 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

| Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order Continued | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|--|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 219-4000 | Tumalo Irrigation District | Tumalo Feed Canal Phase 6 | The District continues its effort towards water conservation through irrigation canal piping. This phase will complete piping on their Feed canal, and start piping onto the lateral network which will culminate to 4.72 cfs conserved water on Tumalo Creek and 1,169 acre feet conserved water on Crescent Creek. | 250,000 | Deschutes |
| Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff | | | | 1,295,477 | |
| Restoration Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| | | None | | | |
| Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | 1,295,477 | |
| Restoration Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County | |
| 219-4006 | Wasco SWCD | Thompson Dam and Ditch Removal | 225,500 | Wasco | |
| 219-4007 | Crook SWCD | Mesic Habitat Restoration for Paulina Sage Grouse | 404,288 | Crook | |

Region 4 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

| Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 219-4012 | Trout Unlimited Inc | Sprague River Levee Removal | This project will allow contracted engineers to develop inundation scenarios and anticipated habitat and water quality benefits from the potential removal of four miles of levees along the Sprague River affecting 500 acres. | 64,838 | Klamath |
| 219-4009 | Crook SWCD | Crooked River Watershed Sage Grouse Conservation III | The Crook SWCD is the lead entity working to enroll private landowners into candidate conservation agreement with assurances (CCAA) to specifically develop site specific plans (SSP) in Crook and Deschutes Counties. This continued work will allow for plan development across 150,000 acres. | 66,577 | Crook |
| 219-4011 | Upper Deschutes WC | Deschutes Riparian Restoration at Riverbend Park | Technical assistance funding will result in construction-ready design plans to improve fish and wildlife habitat along 1,600 ft. of streambank located in a high public use section of the Deschutes River in Bend. | 27,300 | Deschutes |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff | | | | 158,715 | |
| Technical Assistance Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 219-4010 | Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership | Middle Mainstem Columbia Restoration Action Plan | The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP) will lead a variety of partners to develop a restoration inventory and action plan for the mainstem Columbia River from Bonneville Dam to the John Day Dam to fill knowledge gaps and jumpstart restoration activities in this area. | 74,998 | Hood River |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | 233,713 | |
| Technical Assistance Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County | |
| 219-4008 | Hood River SWCD | Eastside Lateral Pipeline Design | 74,498 | Hood River | |

Region 4 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| | | None | | | |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff | | | | 0 | |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | | Amount | County |
| | | None | | | |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT | | | | 0 | |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | | Amount | County |
| | | None | | | |
| Region 4 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award | | | | 1,454,192 | 15.76% |
| Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award | | | | 9,226,487 | |

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4000-16321

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Tumalo Feed Canal Phase 6

Applicant: Tumalo Irrigation District

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: \$250,000

Total Cost: \$6,744,746

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Tumalo Creek and the Deschutes River originate in the Cascade mountains in Central Oregon. Both suffer from low summer streamflows that have been identified as a major factor limiting fish habitat and water quality in the Deschutes River and tributaries. In addition to low flows, Tumalo Irrigation District (TID) experiences major loss of water due to basalt canals. TID has made a significant commitment to the health of the watershed and water conservation through the Tumalo Feed Canal Conservation Project. This phase of the project will eliminate 6,300 length-feet of the open Tumalo Feed Canal and seven laterals into leak-free piping; eliminating seepage losses and creating new senior instream water rights in Tumalo Creek and the Deschutes River during the summer and Crescent Creek, Little Deschutes River and Upper Deschutes River during the winter. OWEB funds will be used to match Federal, State and District funds to purchase materials. This project is the final phase of the Tumalo Feed Canal (Phase VI.) This phase will pipe 6,300 ft of the Tumalo Feed Canal in addition to seven laterals totaling 70,812 length-feet: Gill, Lacy, Highline, Parkhurst, Steele, Rock Springs, and 2 Rivers Laterals. Phase VI alone will conserve 4.72 cfs of water to be returned to Tumalo Creek and 1,169 acre-feet in Crescent Creek during the storage season (total of 2,851 acre-feet.) 100 percent of the publicly funded conserved water will be protected instream through a new senior water right held by the State of Oregon.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This phase 6 project builds on successful implementation of previous phases, which has permanently protected senior water rights instream in Tumalo and Crescent Creeks.
- The project is timely and design ready to implement.
- The District has a strong track record of completing projects on time and securing a final order from the Oregon Water Resources Departments (OWRD) Allocation of Conserved Water Program to permanently protect senior water rights instream.
- This project addresses streamflow, which is an identified limiting factor for the ESA-listed Oregon spotted frog within its critical habitat area.

Concerns

- Piping open-ditch canals that provide open-water availability and established riparian vegetation will have immediate negative impacts to local wildlife. However, these water resources and subsequent habitats are occurring in non-natural settings.

- The letters of support provided are outdated and not directly connected to this phase of the project.
- Since the District's flowmeter at their diversion on Tumalo Creek does not function at all times, it is unclear how the District can ensure protected water stays instream if the mechanism to monitor stream flow is not consistently functioning.

Concluding Analysis

This project is the final phase in piping the District's Feed Canal, which is part of a long-term strategy to pipe the District's entire conveyance infrastructure. Previous phases were successful at permanently protecting senior water rights instream in Tumalo and Crescent Creeks. While these projects carry a high price tag, the District has formed strong partnerships with other state and federal agencies contributing to this effort. The recent ESA listing of the Oregon spotted frog has elevated the need and timeliness to protect water instream. The ecological value from permanently protecting senior water rights instream in high priority streams provides a significant cost benefit for the investment. The applicant is strongly encouraged to ensure the flow meter at Tumalo Creek diversion is functioning properly so there is an effective monitoring mechanism to ensure protected water stays instream.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$250,000

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$250,000

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4001-16337

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Threemile-Crane Creek Reconnect
Phase 1

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$119,530

Total Cost: \$193,586

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Threemile Creek is a tributary to Crane Creek. Both creeks originate on the eastern slope of the Cascades and flow south to Fourmile Creek and ultimately Upper Klamath Lake. Threemile Creek is home to an isolated, but rapidly expanding population of ESA listed bull trout. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Bull Trout Recovery Plan identifies poor habitat quality in the lower section of both creeks as an impact limiting population recovery. The Recovery Plan identifies two priority recovery actions for this population 1) restoring habitat in lower Threemile and Crane Creeks and 2) reconnecting them to nearby unoccupied habitat and to Upper Klamath Lake. To implement these priority recovery actions, Trout Unlimited (TU) and its partners will complete a comprehensive restoration project with two primary components. First, TU will remove Threemile and Crane Creeks from a series of irrigation ditches, return them to their historic channels, and reconnect them to adjacent critical bull trout habitat. Second, TU will complete an instream water transfer to ensure reliable flows in the restored channels (the water transfer is not part of the scope of the OWEB funding request). This project will restore habitat, improve water quality, and ensure reliable hydrologic connectivity to unoccupied critical habitat for the benefit of threatened bull trout. Restored channels, wetlands and water quality will also improve habitat and connectivity for threatened Oregon spotted frog, redband trout, endangered suckers and downstream anadromous fish populations.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is a direct result of a previous OWEB Technical Assistance grant, which yielded a thorough and detailed report that is the basis and foundation for proposed restoration.
- The project will provide habitat value for ESA-listed bull trout and Oregon spotted frog, in addition to other native species, such as redband trout, waterfowl, and lamprey.
- The project ties into other local restoration efforts, specifically those occurring upstream along Threemile Creek on USFS land and downstream along Fourmile Creek.
- The water quality monitoring component utilizing data loggers should yield technically sound and useful data.
- This current phase is ready to go as Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) (landowner) is moving forward with its internal review process to permit the project.
- The ecological benefit to be gained by reconnecting Crane Creek to its historic channel with existing riparian vegetation is strong versus overall project cost is high.

Concerns

- The application is difficult to follow; specifically the different phases of the overall project are unclear. It would be helpful to have clear and detailed maps showing phase I only.
- The riparian fencing component is not well articulated; for example, the application failed to document where the fence will be installed on the landscape and what type of land management the fence will serve. Additional information on future land use would be helpful project context.
- The application lacks detail on construction preparation, specifically fish salvage and erosion control mechanisms are unclear. The applicant is encouraged to work with ODFW when planning implementation.
- The budget lacks detail regarding construction and construction oversight. The application would benefit from more detail about all construction items. Without a detailed cost breakdown, it is difficult to evaluate whether project costs are reasonable.
- The water rights transfer of up to 5.75 cfs has potential to provide benefits; however, the application lacks detail on this project component. Additional information regarding the water source and point-of-diversion is needed to understand potential water savings.

Concluding Analysis

This proposed project will reconnect approximately one mile of Crane Creek into its historic channel configuration through BOR land. Designs were in conceptual phase at the time of application; implementation-ready designs will be completed by fall 2018. This project will address limiting factors identified in the Upper Klamath Lake Bull Trout Recovery plan, and will have significant ecological benefit. The project represents a well-coordinated effort with the various partners involved, particularly with regards to potential benefits and threats to the Oregon spotted frog. This project is the first phase of a proposed multi-phase effort to reconnect stream corridors on Crane and Threemile Creek which in turn will allow fish in these streams to access high quality habitat in Fourmile Creek.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$119,530

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$119,530

Staff Conditions

Prior to first payment, please provide the following to OWEB's project manager: 1.) Final design plans, 2.) A map showing the location of the riparian fence to be installed, and 3.) A grazing management plan detailing how the land adjacent to the project will be managed to uphold the ecological value to be gained through restoration.

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4002-16354

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Wood River Ditch Fish Screen

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$50,744

Total Cost: \$230,885

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) The project proposes to install a new fish screen at the Wood River Ditch (Pump Ditch) point of diversion, located on the Wood River, Klamath Country, Oregon at river mile 17.6. 2) This diversion is located in important rearing and spawning habitat for Redband Trout, Bull Trout, and Lamprey. Additionally, anadromous fish are scheduled to return to the upper Klamath basin upon removal of the Klamath River dams and if left unscreened, this diversion will become a source of mortality for salmon and steelhead as well. A rotary drum fish screen was installed at the site in the late 1990s, but it no longer prevents entrainment of native fish species in the irrigation infrastructure. Installing a new fish screen will eliminate this source of mortality for native fish populations. 3) A new fish screen will be installed at the point of diversion to eliminate entrainment. 4) Project partners include Trout Unlimited, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the private landowner, and the water users.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will replace a high priority, non-functional fish screen on the Upper Wood River.
- The project site is adjacent to critical spawning areas for redband trout and complements fish passage and screening restoration actions in adjacent sites on the Wood River and Annie and Sun Creeks.
- The project objectives are clear and attainable.
- Project designs will be completed by ODFW in the Fall 2018. ODFW's participation signifies a strong partnership and critical need for native fish.
- Project partners have surveyed the diversion channel and documented fish behind the current screen, which provides evidence that the current screen is dysfunctional.
- The application has letters of support from the landowner and water users of this diversion.
- A recently completed screen on a downstream diversion provides assurance that the applicant has successfully completed similar projects.
- A new fish screen on this ditch may demonstrate how fish screening and water conveyance can work together in a meaningful way for other diversions in the Wood River valley.

Concerns

- While not related to the fish screen, a flowmeter installed at the pump station would provide valuable

information regarding rate and duty of use.

Concluding Analysis

This project proposes a new fish screen on the 26-cfs Wood River diversion ditch along the Upper Wood River. Screening this large diversion will ensure no anadromous salmonids will be entrained in the irrigation ditch should the downstream dam removal project proceed on the Klamath River. Protecting native fish from entrainment in irrigation ditches will provide significant ecological benefit for the cost.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$50,744

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$50,744

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4003-16356

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: North Warner Forest Health Phase II

Applicant: Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: \$543,714

Total Cost: \$2,916,704

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Phase II North Warner Forest Health project area includes the Crooked, Mud, and Honey Creek Watersheds in Lake County Oregon. This landscape scale project began in 2016 in an effort to address limiting factors associated with overstocked, diseased, and insect infested timber stands, all at risk of catastrophic fire due to years of fire suppression. This multi-ownership project focused on 20 private property owners and the Fremont- Winema National Forest. Thousands of acres have already been thinned, with many more in contract for 2018 on private and public land. Landowner outreach has led to additional property owners coming on board seeking opportunity to reduce risk of fire and improve the health of their timber stands. To date, 10 new landowners would like to begin forest health treatments in dry forest stands through small tree thinning and slash treatments. Each treatment is designed to reduce ladder fuels and reduce risk of fire. Behind this effort stands the support of 8 federal, state, and county agencies and 7 non-governmental partners. The overall goal of this partnership is to collaborate across ownership boundaries to implement forest health treatments with a goal of creating a seamless, healthy forest landscapes resilient to natural disturbance. Collaboration on both private and federal land will lead to healthy forests, and properly functioning watersheds.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This Phase II proposal will provide a seamless transition from the current phase I project that is achieving expected goals and objectives.
- A strong partnership with representation from various local, state, and federal agencies ensures continuity across ownership boundaries to achieve resilient landscape-scale forest health, wildlife habitat, and native plant enhancement.
- Private landowners are fully committed and ready to go. Positive phase 1 results encouraged additional landowners to participate in phase II.
- Positive economic benefits relating to job opportunities in rural Lake County will be realized.
- Various multiple-use forest end products, including bio-fuel and bio-char, are being considered.
- This project provides an opportunity to work with the local community and demonstrate the positive role of fire on the landscape.
- This project complements previous restoration efforts completed by the watershed council and partners in these subbasins, including fish passage and aquatic restoration projects.

Concerns

- Some parts of the application are hard-to-follow, for example, it is unclear how various fund sources will be allocated.
- The use of fire as a project objective carries significant risk and liability that must be considered and addressed in the landowner agreements. More detail on how the applicant and partners will address this would have been helpful. Managing this risk is a top priority for the partnership and the landowners have a wealth of entities with the appropriate expertise to help them.
- It appears through work being completed on phase I that revenue may be generated from the forest treatments. The application would benefit from additional detail on this revenue and the potential to reinvest those funds in phase II work.

Concluding Analysis

This proposal is the second phase of continued landscape-scale forestry treatments across ownerships in the North Warner mountain area in Lake County. Phase II consists of 8,000 acres of total treatment, spanning legacy ponderosa pine, aspen, and sagebrush-steppe edges where juniper encroachment is occurring. The overall goals and objectives are both bold and innovative, representing a commitment from the many stakeholders to create forest resiliency and improved habitat conditions in this landscape. While the approach for timber cutting seems well vetted through the various stakeholders, the treatment of slash and debris presents its own challenges and opportunity. The various tools being considered, including fire, bio-fuel, and bio-char, provide unique opportunities to address this challenge. Also, stakeholders will work closely with the broader community to ascertain what methodology works best for all involved. The framework and approach offers the potential of being applied in other forest landscapes in Oregon and beyond.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$543,714

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$543,714

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4004-16378

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Gilchrist Wildlife Undercrossing

Applicant: Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$93,148

Total Cost: \$252,748

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Gilchrist Wildlife Undercrossing project is designed to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions while providing permeability for wildlife along a five-mile stretch of US 97 just north of Gilchrist in Central Oregon. US 97 is a main highway running north-south through Oregon along the east side of the Cascade Mountains from California to Washington. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has documented mule deer and elk movement across US 97 during migration season through historical carcass collection records and telemetry studies (Coe et al. 2015). It is expected that deer and elk use the Cascade Mountains for summer range and migrate east across US 97 to the eastern portions of the Deschutes National Forest, or further, for their winter range. Wildlife-vehicle collisions account for 20% of known mule deer fatalities along US 97. In addition to mule deer, the high desert supports a high concentration of American elk, bobcat, mountain fox, coyote, mountain lion, and grey wolf. Some animals make daily movements across US 97, where the highway bisects an individual's range, while other animals make seasonal movements. The large number of wildlife have resulted in numerous wildlife-vehicle collisions, particularly during the fall migration season. In response to the safety issue posed by wildlife-vehicle collisions, ODOT is installing a wildlife underpass for mule deer and elk along US 97 at MP 180. There is already an existing bridge at MP 183.3 that wildlife are using to cross the highway. Due to limited funds, ODOT is unable to pay for the five miles of wildlife fencing to funnel wildlife to the two wildlife undercrossings. As such, partners in Central Oregon, including the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Hunter's Association, US Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon Wildlife Foundation are partnering to raise funds to purchase and install wildlife fencing for this project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant thoroughly articulates components and successful aspects of a wildlife fence previously installed along Highway 97. These lessons learned are incorporated into this proposed project.
- Data regarding wildlife-vehicle collision in the project area and the map in the application provides sound justification and need for the wildlife fencing.
- The project goals and objectives are clear.
- The project has strong partners, including a commitment from the Oregon Hunters' Association to provide fence maintenance and ODFW and ODOT will be involved in implementation.

Concerns

- The application would benefit from more detail on the underpass being developed by ODOT that could also be shown as match to this project.

Concluding Analysis

The project will install wildlife fence for five miles along both sides of Highway 97 near Gilchrist, create one new underpass, and use an existing underpass to funnel wildlife. These restoration activities have a unique direct connection to a watershed benefit. Similar to a culvert impeding fish passage to important habitat for their survival, Highway 97 acts as a barrier for wildlife to effectively express their life cycles.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$93,148

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$93,148

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4005-16400

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Muddy Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement Project

Applicant: Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: \$238,341

Total Cost: \$347,041

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Muddy Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement project is located in the Goose Lake Watershed, ten miles west of Lakeview. This project focuses on restoring fish passage for Goose Lake redband trout in the lower Muddy Creek system where an existing reservoir, constructed in 1965 prevents fish from utilizing the lower five miles of the stream, and ultimately reaching Cottonwood Creek and Goose Lake. Concurrently, several other small barriers (2 culverts, 2 earthen dams) will be addressed to provide passage as well. The second part of this project will improve habitat conditions throughout the stream reach by improving stream flow conveyance by adding sinuosity to the stream and defining the creek bed, stabilizing headcuts, and installing woody material for shade, stability, and complexity. Finally, this project will install riparian fencing and willow stakes/clumps in key locations where grazing impacts have degraded the stream system. This project will greatly improve current stream conditions and enhance a fishery that has not functioned since the mid-sixties. Project partners include: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, KV Bar Ranch and the Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The approach and techniques described in this application address previous review comments and provides a meaningful solution that will enhance habitat for aquatic species and improve water quality.
- The project will address fish passage throughout the entire property, and improve instream and riparian conditions.
- The project is well supported by ODFW and USFWS Partners program; and the landowner's commitment is documented through their support letter and contributions.
- The grazing management plan is valuable to understand how the land will be managed after the project. A healthy bunchgrass community noted during the review site visit demonstrates the landowner's commitment to sound grazing practices.
- Using an inverted siphon is site-appropriate and a sound technical solution.

Concerns

- Some of the project elements were only conceptually designed at time of application, making it

difficult to ascertain final project outcomes and appropriate budgets.

- The proposal notes many outcomes; however, some are not articulated as thoroughly as others. For example, the riparian fence component is challenging to understand where installation will occur.
- While a contextual map is provided in the application, more detail on how this project specifically fits into the broader effort in the Goose Lake basin streams would be helpful.
- The application states the reservoir spills-over on an average of seven out of ten years, but did not provide supporting documentation of this. The application also fails to describe the hydrology below the spillway, specifically regarding suitability for fish given uncertain hydrological conditions. As a result, it is unclear whether this investment will have lasting effects to the target watershed benefit. More detail regarding spillway operations and local hydrology would be helpful context.
- It is challenging to follow the project's budget relative to its objectives due to some inaccuracies, specifically around the line items on final design and construction oversight, which are listed twice.

Concluding Analysis

The holistic approach encompassing the entire property from the reservoir downstream to the Muddy Creek road crossing addresses multiple fish barriers, and improves instream and riparian conditions. The project team has a technically sound approach for restoration and is well-suited to deliver on the restoration actions stated. The project will have a significant degree of environmental uplift for the investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$238,341

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$238,341

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4006-16404 **Project Type:** Restoration
Project Name: Thompson Dam and Ditch Removal
Applicant: Wasco SWCD
Region: Central Oregon **County:** Wasco
OWEB Request: \$225,500 **Total Cost:** \$333,532

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Thompson Dam and Ditch Removal project is located in Tygh Valley, Oregon, roughly 30 miles south of The Dalles in Central Wasco County. The dam is located on Badger Creek, a tributary in the White River Watershed that extends into the Badger Wilderness. This project is needed to remove a unscreened fish passage barrier on Badger Creek to benefit native redband trout. This project has secure match funding through the USDA NRCD White River RCPP funding. The RCPP project is providing match funding to remove 5 dams in total. Once completed, only one fish barrier will remain in the Tygh / Badger Creek watersheds. This project will remove a channel spanning, unscreened fish passage barrier and replace it with three direct stream diversions and a well. It will also convert 70 acres of flood irrigation to pivot irrigations. Project Partners include, Wasco County SWCD, Wasco County Fairgrounds, USDA NRCS and three private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Removing this fish barrier on Badger Creek will open miles of quality habitat for redband trout.
- This project will complement other dam-removal projects along adjacent streams in the White River drainage.
- The applicant's approach of utilizing the NRCS' RCPP program to address on-farm efficiencies, and connecting this work with the stream restoration component, is a strategic approach.
- The project is well-supported by all the stakeholders involved.
- Converting from flood-to-sprinkler will have water savings.

Concerns

- There is a lack of designs for the removal of the existing channel-spanning structure on Badger Creek. Detail regarding how the channel and banks will be restored would be helpful. Without implementation ready designs, the applicant is unlikely to secure permits.
- The applicant has two existing dam-removal projects in the Tygh Valley area with continued delays. It is unclear whether the applicant has capacity to complete the proposed project and should complete the existing projects with OWEB prior to committing to this additional workload.
- More detail regarding the water rights and water-rights transfer would be helpful, including whether the applicant will use the instream transfer as mitigation to offset a new groundwater permit.

- The budget includes lump sums not reflective of true costs making it hard to determine whether costs are reasonable.
- The project timeline may be overly ambitious given similar-type projects are often delayed.
- It is unclear how the instream benefit is calculated and how it will be realized.

Concluding Analysis

This project is located on Badger Creek and removes a diversion dam to provide access for miles of quality redband trout habitat. Water savings from converting flood to sprinkler irrigation provides significant watershed benefits, yet there is no commitment of permanently protecting this water instream. While there is significant fisheries value to removing this barrier, the project impact is limited without the instream water protection. If application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to address the identified information gaps, including project designs, information on water rights and water rights transfer, and budget details.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4007-16408

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Mesic Habitat Restoration for Paulina Sage Grouse

Applicant: Crook SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: \$404,288

Total Cost: \$1,401,661

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Our project area is situated in the upper reaches of the larger Crooked River Watershed, near the town of Paulina. The project includes riparian corridors and wet meadows that provide mesic habitat during the late brood rearing stage of the sage grouse life cycle. In the Crook and Deschutes CCAA area, the vast majority of mesic habitat is privately owned and with agriculture as its primary land use. In order to access this land and address water resource issues it is critical to capitalize on the enthusiasm of willing landowners to improve mesic habitat essential for species recovery. Channel and floodplain modification, poor land management practices, noxious weed invasion and declining forest health are contributing to the Beaver Creek watershed's current state. Providing off stream livestock water, improving forage conditions, and improving floodplain connectivity will restore instream, wetland, and riparian habitats which are disproportionately important to sage grouse and other species in this arid landscape. This application proposes restoration actions that fall under the umbrella of sage grouse conservation but will provide watershed scale benefits by restoring floodplain connections, restoring fish and wildlife habitat, improving water quality, increasing drought resiliency and improving native plant community condition. OWEB funds will be used to enhance mesic habitat by implementing instream habitat improvements, riparian fencing, livestock water pipeline, off-stream water development, riparian plantings, and adding headgates to irrigation systems. Noxious weed treatment up-slope will compliment work underway by our partners and provide benefits to nesting habitat. The private landowners participating in this project are motivated to affect positive change on their property and to resources downstream. NRCS, CRWMA, CRWC, ODF, BLM, USFS, USFWS, and ODFW are all contributing to the project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The instream actions proposed will improve channel and floodplain conditions.
- The riparian fencing component will aid in recovery of riparian and emergent vegetation.
- The project budget is well described and detailed.
- The approach of addressing multiple resource concerns will maximize benefits to the aquatic and riparian habitats through active restoration and better livestock distribution.
- The applicant has strong relationships with the large-acreage landowners, whose properties offer habitat value for conservation and restoration objectives.
- The restoration need of Beaver Creek is described well.

- While the project actions are largely focused on instream and floodplain processes, these may provide ancillary benefits to sage-grouse.

Concerns

- The watershed benefit from the proposed reservoir construction on one of the ranches is unclear. The connection of this reservoir development to the proposed OWEB project elements on Beaver Creek, and whether it has value to benefit fish, wildlife and water quality, is not well-articulated in the application.
- The project elements, specifically roughened riffles and beaver dam analogues (BDA's), are only conceptually designed. Without more design detail and a hydrological analysis, the value of these proposed structures on the target watershed resources, specifically sage-grouse, is unclear.
- The need to address the diversion is not described well, and does not provide adequate justification for this project to be a priority.
- The budget line item for additional engineering services is not likely to be adequate given the large number of roughened riffles, BDA's, and diversion/screening needs.
- Project outcomes are unclear, for example, the number of pools created and length of fence to be installed is inconsistent in the application.
- The project cost-benefit is limited because existing site conditions are highly degraded and will require significant investment to achieve meaningful ecological benefit. The application has little discussion on how these lands will be managed post project implementation. More detail on the landowners' goals and objectives and future adaptive management to promote ecological conditions would be helpful.
- Information on whether any of these landowners have site-specific plans (SSP) as part of a CCAA with the District and if these projects are a direct result of those plans would provide helpful context.

Concluding Analysis

This project will implement a variety of restoration actions and livestock distribution intended to improve mesic habitat conditions. The landowners are highly engaged in conservation work largely around sage-grouse habitat restoration. Due to the large-acreage ownership, the District and landowners have significant opportunity to provide substantial resource benefit. It is unclear how the proposed restoration elements will create and/or enhance mesic habitat. The review site visit provided helpful understanding of limiting factors for sage-grouse, particularly for late-season brood-rearing habitat. More detail is needed on how floodplain enhancement benefits this late-season, brood-rearing habitat for sage-grouse to understand how this project provides ecological benefits for this species. Without information on post implementation land-use/grazing management strategies, it is unclear whether all three ranches will have similar tactics and approaches to uphold the restoration investment. The applicant may benefit from a technical assistance grant that would result in clearly articulated design details and prioritize actions across these large landscapes.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4008-16373

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Eastside Lateral Pipeline Design

Applicant: Hood River SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Hood River

OWEB Request: \$74,498

Total Cost: \$543,818

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This water conservation/pipeline design project will take place within the East Fork Irrigation District (EFID) near Hood River, Oregon. EFID serves approximately 975 patrons on 9,600 acres of agricultural and rural residential land. During peak irrigation (early July through mid-September) in an average summer, EFID diverts approximately 110 cfs from the East Fork Hood River, which amounts to about 75% of the East Fork Hood River's flow. Much of EFID's distribution system is still open canal, which results in an estimated 30 cfs of water loss during summer months. This has a significant impact on spawning and rearing habitat availability for spring Chinook, coho, and winter steelhead. The proposed work will include a cultural resource assessment and pipeline design for the Eastside Lateral Canal, a 5.9-mile unlined ditch that begins near Swyers Drive (45.6123/-121.5073) and ends near Old Dalles Drive (45.6740, -121.4859). The canal serves about one-third of the district (~40 cfs) and has 14 end spills that lose an estimated average of 10 cfs. The design would include final construction drawings and specifications for the pipeline and turn-outs to sub-lateral lines and individual patrons. The completed design will support implementation of this project, which has received funding for the first phase of construction from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (CTWS). Project partners include EFID, Hood River Watershed Group (project manager), Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District (applicant/fiscal sponsor), CTWS (funder), NRCS (technical assistance), and Farmers Conservation Alliance (technical assistance).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Piping six miles of open-ditch canal will potentially save 10 cfs and have strong ecological value if this water is conserved instream.
- This project complements previous investments the East Fork Irrigation District (EFID) and partners made to implement projects that achieve fish passage and flow-restoration targets.
- Appropriate partners are engaged in this work, and the applicant has successfully implemented similar projects.
- The project is implementation ready.
- The water quality concerns are well-described and justify the importance of the benefits the proposed piping will provide.

Concerns

- The overall project costs are high for a design only project. It is unclear whether the \$450,000 match from CTWS is for actual design work or future restoration efforts. The application would benefit from a breakdown of costs for the proposed design elements to understand the overall budget and determine whether costs are reasonable.
- It is unclear whether the benefits to Chinook are as significant as described in the application or are overstated.
- The application lacks information regarding how evaporation and seepage losses are calculated in the overall water conservation estimate. More detail regarding this would be helpful to understand the project's potential impact.

Concluding Analysis

This proposed technical assistance project will aid in construction-ready designs to pipe six miles of open-ditch conveyance for the EFID. The project outcome may provide strong ecological uplift by resulting in water quantity and quality benefits; however, these benefits are not clearly articulated in the application. If this application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to address the information gaps, including project costs, overall water saving capability, and a description of the mechanisms to calculate those water savings.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4009-16381

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Crooked River Watershed Sage
Grouse Conservation III

Applicant: Crook SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: \$66,577

Total Cost: \$87,980

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project location is on private rangelands within the Crook and Deschutes Counties CCAA where ranching operations are occurring on greater sage grouse (hereafter sage grouse) habitat. The USFWS's 2015 determination to not list the greater sage-grouse was based largely on signed letters of intent to enroll in a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) and the associated enrolled acres. To support the USFWS decision SSPs must be completed for the enrolled acres and required practices implemented by 2020. This project addresses the need to develop site specific plans (SSPs) in order to provide landowners with management plans for reducing threats and improving ecosystem function on sage grouse habitat. The magnitude, complexity, and short time frame of this project make it Crook County SWCD's number one priority. The SSPs will assist federal agencies in the determining sage-grouse habitat trends in accordance with population recovery objectives while providing certainty that the impacts of ranching operations on private property have no negative effects on grouse. OWEB funds will pay Crook SWCD's in-house range specialist and a CCAA technician to continue developing and writing SSPs. Staff will work with ranch managers to prepare them for enrollment in a CCAA based on their customized SSP. OWEB funds will directly help landowners develop plans to improve and protect sage steppe habitat through tailored management plans and stewardship practices. This phase of planning will inventory upland and riparian habitat covering over 150,000 acres. The partners involved will be: landowners; Crook County SWCD; NRCS; and USFWS.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The results from previous OWEB phase I and II investments are described well.
- The applicant clearly articulates the need for this technical assistance.
- Crook SWCD (CSWCD) identified this project as its highest priority.
- CSWCD recently added staff that furthers their capacity to achieve the proposed outcomes, and CSWCD has a proven track record of successfully preparing site specific plans (SSPs).
- Future implementation of the resulting SSPs will benefit sage grouse, and has ancillary benefits to other natural resources as well.
- USFWS strongly supports this effort.

Concerns

- The application states that plans will include ownerships in Deschutes and Crook County. However, no support letter is provided from the Deschutes SWCD indicating how coordination will occur.
- Completing a 150,000-acre SSP may be overly ambitious.

Concluding Analysis

This project enables CSWCD to continue developing SSP's for landowners enrolled in the CCAA. SSP development is essential to address sage-grouse conservation on private ownership. The value realized from implementing projects identified in SSP's will have multiple resource benefits.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$66,577

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$66,577

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4010-16333

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Middle Mainstem Columbia
Restoration Action Plan

Applicant: Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

Region: Central Oregon

County: Hood River

OWEB Request: \$74,998

Total Cost: \$95,217

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP) requests \$74,993 to develop a restoration inventory and action plan for the mainstem Columbia River from Bonneville Dam to the John Day Dam to fill knowledge gaps and jumpstart restoration activities in this area. The mainstem mid-Columbia River historically provided essential rearing, migration, and refuge habitat for nine ESA-listed species of Pacific salmon and steelhead. Critical historical mainstem habitats included complex riparian shorelines, nearshore and shallow water areas, side channels, tributary confluences, and areas of groundwater upwelling or other thermal refuges. Many of these habitats have been flooded by the dams, cut off from the mainstem, and hardened or greatly simplified by the transportation corridor and urban and industrial development. In 2013, a restoration project inventory for the Washington side of the mainstem, from the White Salmon River up to the Snake River confluence, was developed by the Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, but this process has not been replicated on the Oregon side of the mainstem, leaving a gap of information on restoration opportunities. To fill this gap, we propose to update the literature review and salmonid life stage habitat preference criteria; survey the Oregon shoreline condition of the mainstem Columbia; catalog existing habitat types; identify restoration opportunities and compile them into a geodatabase; prioritize the identified restoration projects; and develop concept designs and an implementation plan for the top ranked projects. This entire process will be overseen by a stakeholder group, including key watershed councils and tribal, local, state, and federal representatives.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant addresses previous grant review concerns.
- The project outcomes include a well-vetted restoration plan.
- This project complements a similar effort undertaken on the Washington side of the Columbia River. Providing a plan for the Oregon side will aid in meaningful restoration of the mainstem Columbia River through this reach.
- The applicant is filling a known data gap and engaging the right partners within their geographic scope.
- The applicant is well-suited to fulfill the proposed goals and objectives and has demonstrated experience in successfully developing and implementing restoration efforts in the Lower Columbia River.
- The application provides references for credible scientific research.

Concerns

- Restoration opportunities are limited in this area.
- Projects developed as a result of this plan may have a lower priority when compared to opportunities in adjacent tributaries.
- It is unclear if this plan will incorporate how the rivers' hydropower facilities are managed. Mainstem Columbia River management is complex and actions, such as court-mandated hydro releases, are out of local control. The application would benefit from additional detail on how future restoration projects will take this into consideration.

Concluding Analysis

This project will fill a gap on the Oregon side of the Columbia River that lacks a local restoration plan. While restoration opportunities may be few and pose challenges to implement, there is value in understanding what opportunities exist. This is a beneficial first step to ascertain what types of ecological services can be restored.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,998

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4011-16324

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Deschutes Riparian Restoration at Riverbend Park

Applicant: Upper Deschutes WC

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: \$27,300

Total Cost: \$73,300

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed technical assistance funding will be used to develop an implementation-ready set of plans and specifications for approximately 1,600 feet / 0.3 mile of riparian restoration and protection along the Deschutes River in Bend. The site is located along the heavily-used Deschutes River Trail on the west side of the river, immediately downstream of where Reed Market Road crosses the river. Riparian and wetland habitat in this reach has been severely degraded over the past several decades as increased recreational use of the river has resulted in user-created river access points, trampling, erosion and loss of habitat. The funding will be used to support staff and consultant time to develop a restoration and protection design for the site, including riparian revegetation, in-stream wood placement, creation of designated river access sites, signage and permanent fencing to protect the restored areas. The design process will include public involvement and will be co-managed by the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council (UDWC) and the Bend Park and Recreation District (BPRD). The project is part of a 2018 Memorandum of Understanding between UDWC and BPRD that calls for restoration and protection of habitat at multiple BPRD-owned sites along the Deschutes River in Bend.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant clearly articulated the need to address fish and wildlife habitat and riparian function in the application, as well as during the site visit.
- This section of river has significant public use; therefore, it provides a high potential for public awareness and demonstration opportunities.
- The applicant and BPRD have a long history of implementing and protecting restoration investments along the Deschutes River through Bend. They are well suited to deliver the project's goals and objectives.
- BPRD has the necessary resources to respond adaptively to manage a future restoration investment, including the ability and infrastructure to irrigate future plantings.

Concerns

- Since this site is heavily used by the public, fish and wildlife value is low and the restoration potential is limited.

- The application states this project is a high priority as a result of a BPRD reconnaissance along the Deschutes River through Bend, but the summary report resulting from this work is not included in the application.

Concluding Analysis

This technical assistance project will result in construction-ready plans that enhance fish and wildlife habitat along a heavily used section of the Deschutes River through Bend. Design information resulting from this technical assistance work can be transferred to future efforts. While the scale of impact of a restoration project will be limited, conditions will continue to deteriorate due to public impacts and future restoration costs will escalate. The resulting implementation project will have a considerable amount of public awareness and demonstration value.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$27,300

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$27,300

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4012-16393

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Sprague River Levee Removal

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$64,838

Total Cost: \$89,838

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) The proposed project involves removing a levee along four miles of the Sprague River, Klamath County, Oregon. 2) The Sprague River between the town of Sprague River and Chiloquin has been extensively modified. Channel straightening, dredging, and floodplain levees have altered channel processes and the quality and quantity of aquatic habitat. Floodplain levees restrict connection between the Sprague River channel and its floodplain, reducing the frequency and diversity of nursery habitat available for juvenile endangered suckers and other native fish species. Levees also confine flood flows to a narrow area, which differs from the broad floodplain that was historically available. The proposed project intends to remove levees along four miles of the Sprague River to restore connection between the active channel and the adjacent floodplain. 3) Trout Unlimited proposes to retain an experienced engineering firm to evaluate options for restoring floodplain connectivity at the project site. Specifically, project partners are interested in determining inundation intervals under different levee removal scenarios and a variety of river flows (e.g., full removal versus removal of specific sections of levee), acquiring cost estimates for the different scenarios, and investigating whether additional off-channel habitats should be constructed (e.g., backwater channels). This will allow project partners to determine the most ecologically-beneficial and cost-effective restoration option moving forward. 4) Project partners include Trout Unlimited, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the private landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This reach of the Sprague River is critical habitat for ESA-listed bull trout and Lost River shortnose suckers.
- Removing the levee and reconnecting the Sprague River with its floodplain will have multiple resource benefits for native fish and wildlife.
- The future restoration project will filter phosphorous-laden sediment in the floodplain, eliminating its transport to Upper Klamath Lake, which will provide significant water quality benefits.
- The hydrologic analysis and investigation into floodplain inundation under various levee removal options will provide a well-rounded understanding of the restoration potential. A nearby stream gage will provide accurate flow information to support this work.
- Projects partners are fully engaged.
- The inclusion of the scope of work from the engineering firm is beneficial to understanding all the tasks associated with this effort.

Concerns

- The contract engineer cost is listed as one lump sum in the budget. While a bid letter is attached to the application, it does not provide the engineer's hourly rate or estimated hours, which makes it difficult to evaluate whether costs are reasonable. The budget would benefit from an itemization of each phase identified in the engineer's scope of work.

Concluding Analysis

This project will evaluate and document floodplain restoration options for this site along the Sprague River, including potential levee removal. There is a significant restoration potential at this site because a wide variety of ecological uplift could be realized through levee removal, which will benefit native fish and wildlife and water quality.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$64,838

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

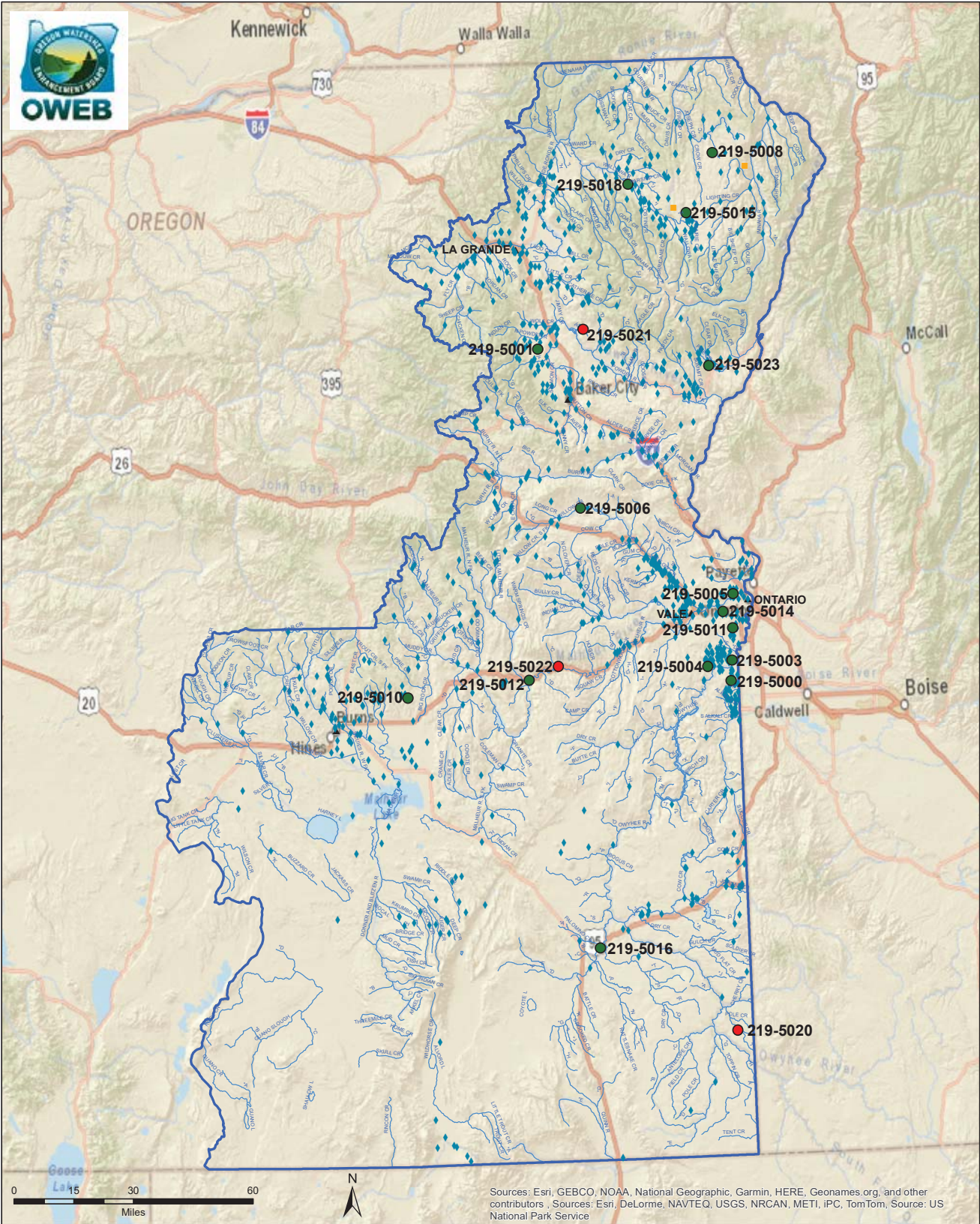
Staff Recommended Amount

\$64,838

Staff Conditions

None

Eastern Oregon - Region 5 Spring 2018 Funding Recommendations



Document Path: Z:\oweb\Technical_Services\Information_Services\GIS\Maps\Review Team Meetings\2018SpringCycle\Projects\Region5_AppFundingStatus_11x17_2018Spring.mxd
 ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Int WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB- PK Wils 20180925

Funding Recommendations

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

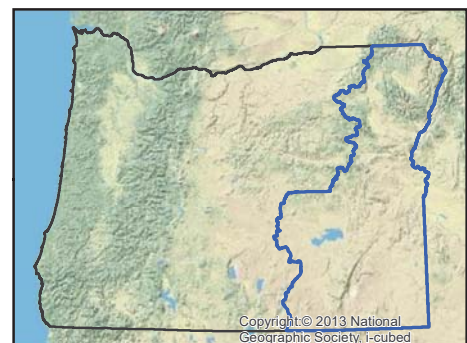
Previous Grants - 1998-2017

- ◆ Restoration
- Acquisitions
- ~ Streams
- Region Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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Region 5 - Eastern Oregon

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
|-----------|-------------------|--|--|--------------------|---------|
| 219-5015 | Wallowa SWCD | North Prairie Phase II | Irrigation improvements will be made on Upper Prairie Creek, a tributary of the Wallowa River near Enterprise, Oregon. This will improve water quality for native steelhead and Chinook salmon populations. | 325,666 | Wallowa |
| 219-5006 | Malheur WC | Getting Will-o-wee in the RCPP | Willow Creek will be restored above the Malheur Reservoir by stabilizing streambanks, installing streamside native vegetation, and addressing fish passage at an irrigation diversion. This will benefit Columbia spotted frog, redband trout, and sage-grouse habitat. | 120,775 | Malheur |
| 219-5003 | Malheur SWCD | Island In the Stream | Flood irrigation will be converted to sprinkler irrigation on the Owyhee River near Ontario, Oregon, which will improve water quality by reducing runoff. | 57,642 | Malheur |
| 219-5001 | Baker Valley SWCD | Crop Circle Irrigation | This project in Baker County will convert 517 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation, which will improve water quality and achieve water quantity efficiencies in the North Powder River. | 180,092 | Baker |
| 219-5004 | Owyhee WC | Finishing Up Fletcher Water Quality Improvement | Located near Adrian, Oregon, this project addresses water quality by converting flood irrigation located on steep slopes with high erosion rates to sprinkler irrigation. Implementation will complement previous projects in the Fletcher Gulch priority area for water quality improvements. | 51,435 | Malheur |
| 219-5000 | Baker Valley SWCD | Around the Bend Water Quality Improvement | Flood irrigation will be converted to sprinkler irrigation near the Snake River, which implements recommendations for improving water quality in this area by reducing erosion. | 83,135 | Malheur |
| 219-5005 | Malheur WC | Grand Canyon 3 | Irrigation improvements near Ontario, Oregon will eliminate accelerated erosion, which will improve water quality in the Malheur River watershed. | 32,123 | Malheur |
| 219-5011 | Malheur SWCD | In For The Haul | Runoff into the Shoestring Canal and the Malheur River will be eliminated by installing irrigation improvements located on steep slopes with high erosion rates, which will improve water quality. | 33,266 | Malheur |
| 219-5008 | Wallowa Resources | North Zumwalt Prairie Integrated Invasive Grass Management | Four hundred acres of medusahead and other noxious weeds will be treated and reseeded with native plants on Zumalt Prairie in Wallowa County. This will benefit essential habitat for breeding and migratory raptors, such as grassland-dependent ferruginous hawk, Swainson's hawk and prairie falcon, Spalding's catchfly and Wallowa needlegrass. | 96,354 | Wallowa |

Region 5 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

| Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order Continued | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 219-5012 | Malheur WC | Solving the Rambling River Blues of the North Fork Malheur: Phase III | Streamside areas along the North Fork of the Malheur River near Juntura, Oregon will be improved by restoring native vegetation to stabilize the eroding streambank and controlling cattle stream access. This leverages previous OWEB investments, and will improve water quality and aquatic habitat for redband trout. | 41,754 | Malheur |
| 219-5014 | Malheur SWCD | Bench Pad, The Next Step Down | Irrigation improvements will eliminate runoff and improve water quality in the Malheur River watershed near Ontario, Oregon. | 25,756 | Malheur |
| 219-5010 | Owyhee WC | Rock Creek Upland Restoration Project | Sage-grouse habitat and native plant communities near Burns, Oregon will be improved by: (1) Western juniper treatment in upland and streamside areas, (2) off stream watering facilities installed to improve livestock distribution and allow rotational grazing, (3) excluding cattle from two springs to protect water quality and native vegetation, and (4) creating an enclosure around an aspen stand to protect it from overgrazing by cattle and elk, allowing the stand to regenerate. | 176,908 | Harney |
| 219-5016 | Malheur SWCD | Area 23 | Invasive cheatgrass will be treated on 640 acres and replaced with native plant seeds along Crooked Creek, outside of Jordan Valley to improve wildlife habitat and reduce wildfire risk. Equipment will also be installed to facilitate rotational grazing to pull livestock and wildlife away from Crooked Creek, which will protect streamside habitat. | 55,476 | Malheur |
| Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff | | | | 1,280,382 | |
| Restoration Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| | | None | | | |
| Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | 1,280,382 | |
| Restoration Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County | |
| 219-5002 | Burnt River SWCD | Bootjack Irrigation Efficiency | 109,353 | Baker | |
| 219-5007 | Malheur WC | Creating Habitat in the Southside Neighborhood of the Malheur River | 43,599 | Malheur | |
| 219-5009 | Malheur WC | Cusick Creek: The Restoration Continues:Phase III | 61,080 | Union | |
| 219-5013 | Wallowa Resources | Broady Creek Steelhead Barrier Removal | 65,397 | Wallowa | |
| 219-5017 | Wallowa Resources | 2018 Upper Wallowa River Restoration Project | 204,051 | Wallowa | |

Region 5 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

| Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--|--|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 219-5018 | Nez Perce Tribe | Lostine Wetland and Side Channel Complex | Restoration plans will be designed for the Lostine River in Wallowa County to restore stream and floodplain connectivity and function, as well as create emergent wetlands. This will benefit Chinook, steelhead-rearing habitat, recently introduced coho, bull trout, Columbia spotted frog, and lamprey. | 60,275 | Wallowa |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff | | | | 60,275 | |
| Technical Assistance Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 219-5020 | Owyhee WC | A Difficult Survey and Design | Topographic survey and design of an irrigation and livestock watering system in the Owyhee Uplands areas between the Owyhee and Middle Owyhee Rivers will provide information for an alternatives analysis and selection for the most cost-effective approach to improving Sage Grouse and wildlife habitat through livestock grazing management and drought resiliency enhancement of wet-meadow mesic areas. | 28,930 | Malheur |
| 219-5021 | Malheur WC | Cusick Creek: The Restoration Continues Phase II | Topographic survey and site analysis will be completed to produce a 60% design on Cusick Creek, which flows into Thief Valley Reservoir in the Powder River basin. This phased effort to enhance a wet-meadow complex and reconnect the floodplain will improve late-season, brood-rearing habitat for sage-grouse in a core habitat location. | 29,488 | Union |
| 219-5022 | Burns Paiute Tribe | Hwy 20 Wildlife Crossings Feasibility Study | A landscape-scale assessment, alternatives analysis, and project designs will be completed to address high wildlife mortality from vehicular collisions along U.S. Highway 20 between Juntura and Harper, Oregon, in the Malheur watershed. | 73,875 | Malheur |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | 192,568 | |
| Technical Assistance Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County | |
| 219-5019 | Eagle Valley SWCD | Foresee Erosion T-A | 26,840 | Baker | |

Region 5 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 219-5023 | Eagle Valley SWCD | Pine Creek Assessment | Stakeholder engagement will complete assessments of diversions in the Pine Creek watershed, a high priority area for bull trout recovery, to evaluate and prioritize future opportunities with a focus on large scale projects. | 78,710 | Baker |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff | | | | 78,710 | |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County | |
| | | None | | | |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT | | | | 78,710 | |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County | |
| | | None | | | |
| Region 5 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award | | | | 1,419,367 | 15.38% |
| Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award | | | | 9,226,487 | |

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5000-16303

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Around the Bend Water Quality Improvement

Applicant: Owyhee WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$83,135

Total Cost: \$171,669

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Around the Bend WQ Improvement project is located ½ mile SE of Adrian in the Big Bend area. OWC in cooperation with Big Bend landowners have established an informal priority area to help improve water quality in the Snake River. This project joins 18 other completed OWEB small and large grant projects involving irrigation system conversion aimed at improving water quality in the Snake River. This project proposes to convert 58 flood irrigated farmland acres in the Big Bend area to sprinkler irrigation through the installation of 2-pivot systems and associated irrigation infrastructure. Flood irrigation conversion will eliminate tailwater containing sediment, nutrients, and bacteria from flowing into the South Alkali Drain and the Snake River. Project partners include Owyhee Watershed Council and Ishida Farms.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project complements numerous irrigation conversion projects implemented in the Big Bend area and the lower Owyhee basin.
- Implementation is likely to eliminate 20 to 60 tons of sediment per acre, reducing sediment, nutrients, and bacteria loading to the South Alkali drain which flows directly into the Snake River. The project site is approximately one-half mile from the Snake River.
- By working with the Big Bend landowners, OWC is filling a programmatic void since NRCS does not fund any EQIP projects in this area.
- The landowner is highly engaged with the project and is likely to sustain the ecological benefit over the long term.
- The application was well written, the budget was comprehensive and detailed, and the need for the project was thoroughly described.
- The application incorporated conveyance piping to Russet Road, enabling future irrigation conversion in that area.

Concerns

- While the Alkali drain is being monitored, this project does not include monitoring so it will be difficult to quantify the water quality benefit.
- The cost is relatively high for the ecological benefit.

Concluding Analysis

The Big Bend area is east of the Snake River near Adrian on the Idaho border. Owyhee Watershed Council (OWC) and local landowners have implemented projects on approximately 530 acres in the project vicinity. Currently, runoff flows into the South Alkali drain, one of several drains monitored monthly during irrigation season by Malheur SWCD. While it is not feasible to intensively monitor all drainsheds due to the high number of drains, improved water quality measured at South Alkali and other nearby drains is indicative of likely project success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$83,125

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$83,125

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5001-16310

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Crop Circle Irrigation

Applicant: Baker Valley SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$180,092

Total Cost: \$470,488

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project site is located in Baker County, near Haines Oregon and has historically flood irrigated 517 acres of pasture and hay ground. The irrigation water used at the project site is diverted from the North Powder River (a native fish bearing stream), to the Mansfield ditch where it is diverted at the project site. All tail water from the flood irrigated acres returns to the Powder River through Little Muddy Creek, only 2.3 miles from the project location, submitting additional debris, sediment, organic and inorganic material into the Powder River Watershed. In addition to water poor water quality, the landowner is supporting an inefficient form of irrigation. Through the installation of five center pivots, the landowner would convert 517 acres to a more efficient form of irrigation. The landowner will use only what can be held by the soil and what is required to support the crop being irrigated, leaving additional water in the North Powder River supporting aquatic habitat and native fish species. The landowner has realized the watershed issues that are present, and contacted the Baker Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) seeking assistance to improve irrigation practices by converting to sprinkler irrigation. Project partners include the Baker Valley SWCD and the landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The amount of water needed to irrigate the fields will be reduced from 11.6 cfs to 2.5 cfs. If it can be documented, the reduction in applied water is significant.
- The project encompasses 517 acres, resulting in a favorable benefit/cost ratio.
- Irrigation return flows will be eliminated, providing water quality benefits as runoff into Little Muddy Creek and the Powder River will be eliminated.
- Irrigation ditches will be leveled, reducing erosion from the fields.
- The landowner is highly engaged in the project which increases the likelihood of success and long-term maintenance.

Concerns

- The project is not in an identified NRCS-priority area.

Concluding Analysis

Currently, tailwater from flood irrigation returns to the Powder River, which is 303(d)-listed for several pollutants. Baker County has few irrigation conversion projects mostly due to the antiquated conveyance systems and lack of partner funding. This project will be an excellent demonstration for improving efficiency due to its highly visible location. Since it is not in an NRCS priority area, EQIP funding is not available. Water quality will be improved since irrigation runoff to the Powder River will be eliminated; however, the estimated reduction in irrigation water withdrawal from 11.6 cfs to 2.5 cfs should be documented, including the ultimate disposition of the unused water. With the new system, the pivots are sized to use only 2.5 cfs and cannot withdraw larger volumes.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$180,092

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$180,092

Staff Conditions

Fund with Conditions. In the Project Completion Report, provide documentation of the reduced volume of water withdrawn and the disposition of the unused water.

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5002-16316

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Bootjack Irrigation Efficiency

Applicant: Burnt River SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$109,353

Total Cost: \$185,320

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project site is located near Unity, Oregon within the Burnt River Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The Thompson ditch, an open ditch delivery system, spans 1.5 miles from its point of diversion (POD) in the West Fork of the Burnt River, to where it is currently utilized through flood irrigation on 149 acres. A survey of the ditch completed with the local NRCS office found that considerable water loss is occurring throughout the entire reach of the ditch: about 224 gallons per minute (GPM) was diverted into the ditch at the head gate and 10 GPM was observed at the delivery location at the end of the ditch. To address water loss in the Thompson ditch, this project proposes to convert one mile of open ditch to a pressurized piped irrigation system. In addition to an antiquated and inefficient delivery system, this project will also address increased sediment inputs into the Burnt River Watershed by converting 14 acres of flood irrigated pasture to sprinkler irrigation under pivot. The landowner has realized these watershed issues present at the project location and has contacted the Burnt River SWCD seeking assistance to improve irrigation efficiency by piping one mile of open ditch and installing one three tower pivot converting 14 acres of flood irrigated pasture to sprinkler irrigation. Project partners include the Burnt River SWCD and the landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Piping the ditch will prevent significant evaporation and seepage on 5,420 feet of earthen ditch.
- Fish mortality from entrainment in Thompson Ditch will be eliminated.
- The Thompson Ditch crosses land owned by several landowners who provided written notice supporting the installation of conveyance pipe. While none of these landowners divert from the ditch, they support the ecological goals of the project.
- Water quality will be improved by eliminating flood irrigation runoff from a 14-acre field through conversion to sprinkler-pivot.
- NRCS provided designs for the pipeline.

Concerns

- The .19 cfs savings at the pivot location provides low ecological benefit for the cost.
- The application should have included input from ODFW regarding fish and aquatic benefits for the West Fork of the Burnt River.

- The required size of the pivot was unclear. It appears that a pivot sized for 30 acres is only irrigating 14 acres.
- While the pipe will be sized for the water right, and there are no other users on the ditch, it is unclear whether water will remain in the West Fork of the Burnt River.

Concluding Analysis

The application lacked clarity and it was difficult to understand some project elements. The landowner has water rights to divert the entire West Fork of the Burnt River into Thompson Ditch. Conveyance pipe will only be installed on private land and not on USFS land where the diversion is located. Since there are no other users on the ditch, the remaining flow should remain in the West Fork of the Burnt River; however, it was unclear whether this is the case. A significant portion of the OWEB-requested budget (70%) is for the HDPE conveyance pipe, which also provides the most ecological uplift. The project potentially has merit but needs additional clarification of aquatic benefits and water savings.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5003-16325

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Island In the Stream

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$57,642

Total Cost: \$230,420

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed project is located immediately adjacent to the Owyhee River, 19 miles from Ontario (just north of Owyhee Junction) in the North Alkali Creek- Snake River Watershed (1705010311) (Please see Location Map). The Malheur SWCD is requesting \$94,993 to fund the conversion of 133 flood/furrow irrigated acres to sprinkler irrigation. The conversion to sprinkle irrigation will consolidate three existing fields (and a small portion of a fourth) under a single center pivot equipped with a swing arm/corner catcher and an end gun. The center pivot will irrigate 100 acres, the swing arm and end gun will allow the irrigation of an additional 33 acres. 2,700 feet of open ditch will be eliminated (piped) and six acres of field will be planted for wildlife forage. Current furrow irrigation practices result in increased sediment and nutrient loading to the Owyhee and Snake Rivers. The conversion to sprinkle irrigation will eliminate sediment and nutrient loading from these fields and will increase water conservation efficiency. OWEB funds will be used to purchase pipe, pumps, bridges, flow meter and other materials, and to help pay for a water rights transfer and 5% indirect costs. Matching funds include the landowner's direct purchase of the pivot and the installation of the piping to remove the ditch, and donated staff hours from Malheur SWCD. Project partners include the landowner, Malheur SWCD, Oregon DEQ (319 water quality monitoring), and Owyhee Irrigation District.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant responded directly to concerns raised in the previous review.
- The landowner is highly engaged with the project and is likely to maintain the ecological benefits over the long term.
- Project implementation has significant water quality benefits achieved by eliminating a highly turbid discharge.
- The project complements many other irrigation conversion projects in the Owyhee Junction and Adrian area.

Concerns

- No concerns were noted.

Concluding Analysis

This application was previously submitted but lacked essential detail to warrant funding. The following concerns were addressed: the need for a 60-hp floating pump station is to accommodate the additional sprinkler capacity; and the open irrigation ditch will now be piped, eliminating concerns about runoff entering the ditch. The project will consolidate three fields under a single pivot. Water quality data was included with the application demonstrating water quality improvement to Bishop Drain as a result of similar previously implemented projects in the drainshed. Flow in Bishop Drain bifurcates and enters the Owyhee River at two locations. Bishop Drain is one of the drains contributing large volumes of sediment and runoff to the Owyhee River. The project is situated adjacent to the Last Chance sediment pond project which will be constructed in 2018. The project is likely to improve water quality in Bishop Drain and the Owyhee River.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$57,642

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$57,642

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5004-16329

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Finishing Up Fletcher Water Quality Improvement

Applicant: Owyhee WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$51,435

Total Cost: \$145,877

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Finishing up Fletcher WQ Improvement project is located approximately 10 miles northwest of Adrian, in the Fletcher Gulch Priority Area. This project proposes to convert 57 acres of flood irrigated cropland to sprinkler irrigation by installing the following components: 3 pivot systems, big gun sprinklers and associated conveyance infrastructure. This project ties into a previously installed OWEB project 214-5076 "Upper Fletcher Gulch WQ Improvement". Irrigation tailwater from the site contains sediment, nutrients and bacteria which flow into Fletcher Drain, Old Owyhee Canal and the Lower Owyhee River. Installing sprinkler systems will eliminate flood irrigation tailwater in drain system and continue the water quality improvement projects already completed in the priority area. Project partners include: Owyhee Watershed Council and the Landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project will complete flood-to-sprinkler irrigation conversion by the North Canal in the Fletcher Gulch Priority area.
- Implementation follows ODA's priorities and has significant water quality benefits. The project is on steep slopes with accelerated runoff rates. Tailwater flows into Fletcher Drain and eventually into the Owyhee River. Converting from flood to sprinkler irrigation eliminates that runoff. The project ties into an existing pump station previously funded by OWEB.
- Graphs summarizing monitoring data show nutrient and sediment inputs to Fletcher drain have been significantly reduced from similar projects implemented in the Fletcher Gulch priority area.

Concerns

- Pivot #3 appears to include an area with buildings and trees; however, discussion at the site visit confirmed that the old building and trees will be removed prior to project installation.

Concluding Analysis

The application clearly depicted the problem and provided detailed maps and budget. The site visit confirmed steep slopes with accelerated erosion rates. The project is located in the 970-acre Fletcher

Gulch Priority Area designated by NRCS and local partners. Installation of the OWEB-funded Fletcher Gulch lateral enabled landowners to convert from flood to pressurized sprinkler irrigation. To date, over 76% of the Fletcher Gulch Priority area is already converted from flood to sprinkler irrigation; this project increases the converted sprinkler acreage to 83% of the Fletcher Gulch Priority Area.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$51,435

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$51,435

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5005-16338

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Grand Canyon 3

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$32,123

Total Cost: \$47,473

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Grand Canyon 3 project is approximately 1.5 miles NE of Ontario and ¼ north of the Malheur River. Currently an earthen irrigation lateral is used to deliver irrigation water from the Oregon Slope down to a pivot below Foothill road. The area where the lateral descends from the top of the hill to the bottom of the hill is experiencing severe erosion on steep slopes with highly erodible soils. This erosion problem worsens every year and with each natural storm event and causes sediment and nutrients to flow into the Malheur River. The solution is to replace the earthen irrigation delivery lateral with 1,880 feet of 10-inch buried pipeline and associated control structures. Project partners are: Malheur Watershed Council, Owyhee Irrigation District and the Private landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Implementation will reduce the amount of sediment delivery into the Malheur River, which is 1,340 feet away.
- The project will provide the ability to convert from pump to gravity-pressure in the irrigated field.
- The budget was detailed and clearly explained.
- The water quality benefit is immediate. The severe erosion and down-cutting occurring above Canyon 3 Road will cease.

Concerns

- It was unclear whether Malheur County should have been more involved in the project. The portion of the project relating to the road culvert seems to be a County infrastructure issue rather than a habitat or water quality issue.
- The water quality benefit is difficult to measure, making it difficult to determine whether the project has a favorable benefit/cost ratio.

Concluding Analysis

The application provided a good description of the watershed problem. The site visit confirmed the affected area experiences severe down-cutting. Irrigation water delivered through a gully causes soil erosion and transports sediment to a county culvert, which drains directly to the Malheur River. By piping

the lateral, the gulley will no longer be used as irrigation water conveyance, eliminating sediment delivered to the road culvert. It was also verified that there is sufficient pressure in the new lateral to eliminate the current irrigation pumps in the field. The Owyhee Irrigation District will install the 1,880 foot 10-inch pipe to replace the earthen lateral causing the erosion problem. Malheur County will install the culvert. Implementation eliminates sediment from entering the Malheur River providing significant, although unmeasurable, water quality benefits.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$32,123

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$32,123

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5006-16339

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Getting Will-o-wee in the RCPP

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$120,775

Total Cost: \$164,107

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Getting Will-o-wee in the RCPP project is 8.5 miles East of Ironside on Willow Creek. This project is in core priority Sage Grouse Habitat and in a priority 2 High Desert RCPP HUC12. This section of Willow Creek lacks crucial riparian vegetation due to loss of water table, is experiencing streambank instability and lacks redband trout passage at 4 irrigation diversion locations. This project is phase I in a two-phase approach to stabilize the streambanks and replace 4 pushup style diversions with permanent fish friendly structures. Phase I will restore approximately 5,950 feet of streambank through the installation of 48 Vertical Post Structures, 13 rock riffles, 1 new fish passage approved pump irrigation diversion, and 450 willow cluster plantings. Project Partners include: Trout Unlimited, Malheur WSC, Malheur SWCD, Private Landowner, NRCS

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- NRCS RCPP funding is secured.
- The project complements many OWEB projects previously implemented in the Ironside and upper Willow Creek area. Banks of Green and other riparian improvement projects are upstream. Many acres of juniper were also removed in the upper watershed.
- Project implementation will benefit riparian vegetation, improving habitat value for sage-grouse and redband trout. The manager is committed to changing practices to avoid haying in the riparian area.
- Current grazing management in the project area is light, causing no impacts to existing willows.
- The project provides an excellent demonstration opportunity in the upper Willow Creek area. It is readily accessed along a County road.
- The designs ensure a high rate of willow recruitment.
- The project encompasses both sides of Willow Creek. The proposed objectives are appropriate for the site. Aquatic species will benefit from the proposed floodplain reconnection and improved channel sinuosity achieved from the project.

Concerns

- Without a CREP buffer, livestock could trample the plantings. However, NRCS is planning a spring development, off-stream water, and a grazing plan which should provide the landowner with more options. Fencing Willow Creek after the project is implemented would be problematic once the channel is braided.

Concluding Analysis

The project is located in core sage-grouse habitat and is a high priority for the High Desert RCPP and NRCS. This section of Willow Creek lacks sufficient riparian vegetation due to a downward trend in the water table. Malheur WC is proposing a two-phase effort to improve riparian conditions. While there was concern that the push-up dam removal was in the second phase rather than the first, it was determined that the channel profile needs to be modified before engineered designs can be prepared for new irrigation diversions.

The application provided detailed maps, designs and photos. The project addresses improving critical riparian vegetation and streambank function by reconnecting the floodplain, enhancing aquatic conditions especially for redband trout. Designs for the project were prepared through a previous OWEB technical assistance grant. Expanding the wetted width of the riparian area benefits sage-grouse by providing late-season, perennial bunchgrass whose seeds are essential for brood-rearing.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$120,775

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$120,775

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5007-16340

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Creating Habitat in the Southside Neighborhood of the Malheur River

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$43,599

Total Cost: \$66,274

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) Location: Malheur River, river mile 55. 1 3/4 air miles to downtown Harper.2) The banks in the project reach are 8-10 feet high and unstable. The channel is migrating several feet at a time with each high flow event. The 2017 spring runoff was particularly bad. There is little to no riparian vegetation at the site and the aquatic habitat is very simple, no pools, hiding cover or woody debris. The river does not meet water quality standards for temperature, sediment and nutrients.3) Install 80 large trees with rootwads to protect the toe along 780 feet of eroding bank. Place 60 boulder 3-4 feet in diameter in the same area to serve as ballast. Plant 195 vertical bundles of willows and 156 cottonwood posts to provide vertical structure.4) Partners are the landowner, RSI engineering, and the Malheur WSC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project location has potential demonstration value for nearby landowners.
- The landowner purchased the property two years ago and is motivated to address bank erosion.
- Wood placement in the floodplain has multiple benefits, including food web development and floodplain roughness. The project demonstrates a good use for juniper carcasses.

Concerns

- The adjacent field is a winter feeding area. Unless access is controlled, survival of willows and cottonwoods will likely be compromised.
- If the area is grazed, the timing needs to be during the cold-browse period.
- The project lacks a sufficient schematic and design. It is unclear whether enough trees are proposed and where fencing will be located.
- Jack-strawed tree carcasses are unlikely to protect plantings from cattle damage.
- A grazing plan or scheme for the proposed treatment area is needed.

Concluding Analysis

The site visit indicated that restoration is needed for this section of the Malheur River which suffers from

significant bank erosion adversely affecting water quality and instream habitat. Vertical banks are eight to ten feet high and channel migration is occurring with subsequent high-flow events. While this section of the river was historically altered by dikes and levees, the levees have eroded away on this site. Historic high flows in spring 2017 accelerated channel migration at this site.

It is unclear from the application the extent to which natural processes can be restored on this section of the river, and therefore, whether bank treatments will be effective over the long term. In addition to the concerns noted above, the proposed treatment is planned for one side of the river, but not the opposite side. It is unclear if proposed actions will adversely affect vegetation. While there are potential benefits with this application, additional detail and design is needed to warrant funding

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5008-16342

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: North Zumwalt Prairie Integrated
Invasive Grass Management

Applicant: Wallowa Resources

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: \$96,354

Total Cost: \$238,544

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Zumwalt Prairie, located in Wallowa County, is regionally significant for its ecological diversity, high quality grazing habitat, scenic vistas, and location as headwaters to biologically important streams such as Joseph Creek. The North Zumwalt is at risk from noxious weeds, especially annual invasive grasses such as Medusahead rye. We are proposing a truly integrated management strategy- involving thatch removal by prescribed burning, targeted grazing, pre-emergent herbicide, restricted grazing, hand-pulling, and re-vegetation to address the growing threat to the Zumwalt. Our partners in the region, especially The Nature Conservancy, private landowners, and Wallowa County Vegetation Department, among others, are working with us to put more time and resources into this important effort.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application was well written and the proposed actions present a sound strategy towards restoration.
- The two proposed seed mixes are beneficial. One seed mix has a larger percentage of native grasses more appropriate for use on areas where soils, aspect and topography are more conducive to successful germination rates. The other seed mix containing sheep fescue is more appropriate for sites with poorer or rocky soils on south or west-facing slopes where establishment may be more challenging.
- The proposal builds off successful grants where monitoring has demonstrated improving trends.
- Engaged landowners are actively participating with Wallowa Resources.
- The proposed actions address the causes of disturbance, rather than just treating a symptom.

Concerns

- Given that medusahead infestation is often caused by poor grazing practices, the application should include grazing plans, and should consider incorporating rest periods.
- Assurance is needed that there will be adequate rest or a vegetation density test indicating roots are established.
- It is unclear from the application whether the sheep fescue seed mix will be limited to use in appropriate areas.

Concluding Analysis

This application continues an on-going effort that targets and treats noxious weeds on multiple properties on the Zumwalt Prairie, which is regionally significant for its ecological diversity and high quality habitat. Medusahead is the primary annual grass threat to the Zumwalt Prairie. Protecting the native bunchgrass plant community will maintain wildlife habitat and prevent shallow-rooted non-native annuals from establishing. The proposed integrated strategy includes burning, herbicide treatments, hand-pulling, targeted or restricted grazing and revegetation. The contractors have successfully treated invasive weeds using this strategy. Temporary fencing is included to facilitate work on smaller-acreage pastures; however, grazing plans are needed to insure the viability of treatment sites.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

9 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$96,354

Review Team Conditions

Prior to treating burn/spray/seed sites, submit grazing plans that include post-treatment rest.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$96,354

Staff Conditions

Prior to treating burn/spray/seed sites, submit grazing plans that include post-treatment rest.

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5009-16344

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Cusick Creek: The Restoration
Continues:Phase III

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Union

OWEB Request: \$61,080

Total Cost: \$77,477

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) Cusick Creek is located approx 30 miles North of Baker City and approx 10 miles from North Powder. The Cusick Creek watershed drains approximately 14 square miles or 9,100 acres of land and flows into Thief Valley Reservoir on the Powder River. The project site is within sage grouse core habitat. 2) Reach 3 of Cusick Creek has 4 areas of steep vertical banks, inadequate vegetation, and lacks diverse aquatic habitat. Livestock management is having detrimental effects on the vegetation because the cattle are in the creek area during the hot months. The creek is the only source of water during this time. 3) We will install 4 wood revetments that use trees 20 feet long and 24 inches in diameter with 55 rocks for ballast. We will place trees in 8 other places to provide aquatic habitat. There will be a total 90 pieces of wood in a reach about 2,000 feet long. We will create a riparian pasture by building 1875 feet of cross fence and supply water to that pasture and an adjacent pasture with 2 trough. We will install a solar pumping station and bury 1,000 feet of 2-inch pipe to supply water to the troughs. The pump and pipeline will connect to an existing water supply. 4) Partners are the landowner, RSI engineering and the Malheur WSC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is complementary to previously implemented projects, including Phase I that occurred downstream of this site on Cusick Creek to improve riparian conditions.
- The project provides the opportunity to better manage livestock by installing cross fencing and off-stream water.
- Streambank conditions will improve. Implementation addresses down-cutting that has occurred in several locations.

Concerns

- With respect to project phases, the project sequencing is confusing.
- The application lacks designs, which would provide reviewers with the technical details required to determine whether the proposed solution will achieve project objectives.
- A grazing plan is needed regarding timing, livestock numbers, and duration.
- A specification sheet for the pump is needed to verify if it has the capacity to convey water adequately to the proposed troughs.

- Fish presence in Cusick Creek was not noted. Knowing the aquatic species present in Cusick Creek, which flows directly into Thief Valley Reservoir, is necessary to determine the ecological benefit of the project.

Concluding Analysis

The project has potential to improve riparian and upland conditions in this area of Cusick Creek, which is core sage-grouse habitat. Restoration of riparian and wet meadow areas benefits sage-grouse by providing late-season, brood-rearing habitat. Livestock watering directly on Cusick Creek exacerbates the decline in riparian conditions. It was noted that livestock pressure has been reduced significantly by the landowners, and that vegetation is responding well where the landowner implemented Phase I downstream of the project site. The proposed off-stream water will keep livestock away from the riparian area and help improve riparian vegetation and condition.

The applicant also submitted a technical assistance application for a section of Cusick Creek below this proposed project area. The phase 3 restoration project also included a significant budget for design. The designs for phases 2 and 3 should be combined into a single technical assistance project, followed by restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5010-16349

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Rock Creek Upland Restoration Project

Applicant: Harney SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Harney

OWEB Request: \$176,908

Total Cost: \$512,904

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) This project takes place on 3,269 acres of private property in the northern Harney Basin approximately 20 miles East of Burns, along Rock Creek and Pine Creek. Half of the project area is located within Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH) for sage-grouse. 2)The watershed concerns to be addressed include Western Juniper encroachment throughout the upland and riparian areas, loss of desired riparian species, loss of flora and fauna species richness and diversity, loss of stream bank stability, and overland erosion of uplands.3)Proposed work includes: removing western juniper throughout the property including upland and riparian areas, installation of off stream watering facilities which will allow for better distribution of livestock and will enable rotational grazing, fencing two springs to protect water quality and native vegetation, and creating an enclosure around an aspen stand to protect it from overgrazing by cattle and elk, allowing the stand to regenerate.4) Project partners include the landowner and the Harney Soil and Water Conservation District.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The property has a new landowner who successfully implemented previous OWEB projects on other properties and has high motivation for restoration.
- The proposed work schedule is outside sage-grouse nesting season (May 15 – July 15).
- A grazing plan will be included with the project completion report.
- The rangeland has a good mix and diversity of sagebrush-steppe upland plants.
- Implementation will benefit sage-grouse habitat and water resources.
- Grazing will change from season-long to every-other year rest rotation.

Concerns

- Using a skidder can potentially promote increased noxious weed establishment. Skidder piling also pushes excess dirt into debris piles making pile-burning problematic.
- The application lacked a description of long-term management practices to prevent re-establishment of juniper on the site.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project will be implemented by an engaged landowner and enhances sage-grouse habitat, aspen regeneration, mountain-mahogany, and native upland vegetation. Uneven grazing distribution will be addressed by developing a spring and installing troughs. By adding off-stream watering sources, season-long grazing will be eliminated. This property will benefit from some disturbance to stimulate the establishment of early seral species; however, skidder use should be limited to frozen conditions.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

12 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$176,908

Review Team Conditions

A skidder is to be used only when ground is frozen, otherwise use an excavator. Provide two growing seasons of rest after seeding.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$176,908

Staff Conditions

A skidder is to be used only when ground is frozen, otherwise use an excavator. Provide two growing seasons of rest after seeding.

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5011-16355

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: In For The Haul

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$33,266

Total Cost: \$90,341

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) Approximately 10 miles south of Ontario, above the Shoestring Canal, This proposed project drains into the Shoestring Canal. 2) This project is located 10 miles SW of Ontario and sits on the edge of the bench ground. The 24-acre property is currently flood irrigated with gated pipe and broken concrete ditches on steep 5 to 12% slopes. The major cause of erosion is poor irrigation efficiency with steep slopes. Much of the irrigated acreage in the watershed has slopes exceeding 1.5%. Installation of pressurized pipeline along with on-farm irrigation system improvements will effectively treat runoff. 3) Install a pivot to treat 21 acres with a flow meter 4) Partner will include landowner

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Water quality benefits are high given the steep slopes with a high risk of erosion.
- The application provided meaningful responses to previous review team comments, which aided in better understanding the project.
- This is a high priority for ODA.
- The benefit/cost ratio is favorable.

Concerns

- The application does not adequately describe the water quality problem; the estimated 20 tons per-acre of sediment is likely much lower than the actual rate.
- The application does not describe how the pivot will use 25% less energy than the current irrigation system.

Concluding Analysis

The project site is not in an EQIP priority area and is therefore ineligible for NRCS cost-share. By installing a pivot-sprinkler in lieu of gated pipe, runoff will be eliminated, providing significant water quality benefits for a reasonable cost.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

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Review Team Recommended Amount

\$33,266

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$33,266

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5012-16359

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Solving the Rambling River Blues of the North Fork Malheur: Phase III

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$41,754

Total Cost: \$54,226

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) Project Location: The project reach is on the NF of the Malheur River approximately 500 feet from the river's mouth. Lat/long 43.754, -118.0782) Need: Riparian vegetation is not in good condition at the site. There is not enough woody species present to modify water temperature and improve aquatic habitat. The banks have been trampled and are eroding which is contributing to excessive sediment entering the stream. The North Fork is listed by DEQ for not attaining water quality standards and because it lacks aquatic habitat According to ODFW, redband trout use the area.3) We will install 5,313 feet of fence approximately 35 feet from the southern stream bank. And we will plant mostly willows and dogwood at 1,300 locations on the banks edge. Techniques will include bundles, cluster planting and clump planting. Post planting mostly with cottonwood and tree willows to provide vertical structure to the site. Approximately 1,060 posts will be planted. We will construct 3 water gaps to allow for livestock watering.4) Partners: OWEB, Landowner, and Malheur WSC

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Project implementation will address the lack of shrub and tree cover on the North Fork of the Malheur.
- This is a straightforward project with good budget detail and anticipated outcome.
- Landowner does quality work and implements adaptive management, making modifications when needed and learning from past failures.
- The length of riparian area treated is significant given the 5,300-foot footprint.
- The project connects with others implemented by the landowner. The North Fork Riparian (214-5070) is downstream of this project and has been successful. In addition, Juntura Pipeline & Riparian project (217-5046) was recently completed with high success rates on the plantings viewed during the site visit.
- The project costs are reasonable for the ecological benefits achieved.

Concerns

- Only one side of the riparian area will be treated; however, there is already some existing vegetation on the other side. Beulah Dam also controls the amount of flow into North Fork of the Malheur.
- The proposed buffer width is relatively narrow (15' – 20') adjacent to the hay ground.

Concluding Analysis

Redband trout use the North Fork year-round. This project continues ongoing restoration efforts implemented by the landowner and is complementary to several projects. Due to the narrow buffer size in some places, enrolling in CREP is not a possibility; however, the proposed buffer will address the lack of shade, woody debris species and aquatic habitat. Willow and dogwood plantings will help reduce bank erosion and slumping which is also being exacerbated by the bridge constriction on Highway 20.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

10 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$41,754

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$41,754

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5013-16362

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Broady Creek Steelhead Barrier Removal

Applicant: Wallowa Resources

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: \$65,397

Total Cost: \$137,380

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) The Broady Creek Watershed is located in northeast Oregon in Wallowa County, north of the town of Enterprise. The creek is in the headwaters of the Lower Grande Ronde River subbasin which flows into the Snake River. 2) Broady Creek offers cold water habitat for juvenile and adult steelhead salmon in a subbasin where many streams are water quality limited. Information from ODFW in the 1960s shows Broady Creek as being a major steelhead spawning stream. Road construction and logging that occurred in the decades since resulted in degradation of that spawning and rearing habitat. 3) This project places half of the longest and most impactful road in the watershed, FSR 4600-505 (aka "the Broady Road"), into storage which results in removing four aquatic organism passage barriers in Broady Creek, East Fork Broady Creek and West Fork Broady Creek, as well as implementing storm damage risk reduction (SDRR) measures to reduce current and potential future impacts to spawning and rearing habitat in Broady Creek. Specifically, three arches that are partial barriers to juvenile steelhead and a trash rack on a fourth arch will be removed to provide uninterrupted access to 2.7 miles of upstream habitat. 4.5 miles of SDRR work along FSR 4600-505 will remove 24 additional ditch relief and side drainage culverts. 4) The Forest Service is partnering with Wallowa Resources, the Nez Perce tribe and OWEB to implement this project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project has high energy and enthusiasm from the USFS and Wallowa Resources.
- Broady Creek is a known ESA-listed steelhead stronghold that is on the decline.

Concerns

- The provided design and proposed budget seemed inadequate. The forest engineer needs to substantiate the design. The amount of cubic yards that needs to be removed needs to be quantified.
- Providing photos with the application would have improved understanding of the need for the project.
- The project was presented as a barrier removal. However, from the site visit the lower culvert is a bottomless arch and seemed to be functioning. The trash rack appears to be a barrier and should be removed.

- Removing the culverts may actually exacerbate sediment deposition by creating excess sediment during the removal process. There are no designated end-haul sites and the excess soil (over 300 dump trucks estimated from one site) will be spread on the road. During a rain event, material spread on the road may wash into Broady Creek and create significant water quality issues. This potentially may be more harmful to fish habitat, and the application did not address how the design would mitigate this potential issue.
- The existing road seemed to be in good shape. It is rocked and was constructed well.

Concluding Analysis

Steelhead passage on Broady Creek is largely flow-dependent. There are known barriers including the trash rack where juveniles can get entrained. Access to the upstream habitat is important. The application seems premature in that it was unclear whether removing all the shallow and deep culverts is necessary, and if so, how sediment transport will be addressed. The budget needs to include all necessary equipment required to complete the project, including unit costs and estimated hours needed for project completion.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5014-16367

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Bench Pad, The Next Step Down

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$24,876

Total Cost: \$141,156

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1. The proposed project is located 7 miles from Ontario, Oregon at 923 Onion Avenue on two fields for a total of 41.2 acres of flood irrigated bottom ground.2. Runoff from the two fields enter into a drain that then dumps into the Nevada Ditch with nutrients and sediment, that enters the Malheur River, then the Snake River3. The landowner will install two pivots, 4 big guns to irrigate the corners for zero runoff on 39.05 acres and continue to flood 1.53 acres and .62 planted to crested wheatgrass4. Partners will include the landowner, OWEB and the Malheur SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on prior investment by tying into an existing buried mainline.
- Implementation will eliminate using gated pipe, which causes excess erosion from the flooded fields.
- Transportation of sediments, nutrients, bacteria and farm chemicals in runoff to the Nevada Ditch, and ultimately the Malheur River, will be mostly eliminated. Implementation follows recommendations set forth in the Malheur River TMDL (2004).
- The project's location provides an opportunity to demonstrate conversion from flood irrigation in an area of the Malheur basin that does not have many pivots.

Concerns

- None

Concluding Analysis

The project is close to Ontario and not in a designated EQIP priority area for NRCS. The Morgan Avenue watershed receives irrigation water from the North Canal in an open-canal system that is then distributed to various laterals. This project complements a previously implemented project where the landowner converted 39 acres of steep farmground from flood to sprinkler irrigation on an adjacent field. Eliminating runoff from this field into the Nevada Ditch has significant water quality benefits and is a high priority action for ODA.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

11 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$24,876

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Amount

\$25,756

Staff Conditions

Fund increased. Add \$880 for a water right transfer and associated indirect costs.

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5015-16386

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: North Prairie Phase II

Applicant: Wallowa SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: \$325,666

Total Cost: \$1,860,001

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project will is located north east of Enterprise, OR in Wallowa County. Irrigators currently divert water from the Wallowa River into the Farmers Ditch, which carries water to farms across 18.7 miles before spilling into North Prairie Creek. The spilled water, known as tailwater, flows through Prairie Creek before entering the Wallowa River. The open ditch captures agricultural runoff and flow in the ditch increases sediment load by erodes the ditch banks, reducing the quality of the tailwater entering these waterways. This tailwater contributes to Prairie Creek and the Wallowa River being included on Oregon's 303(d) for sediment and other parameters. There are steelhead and Chinook salmon populations in the Wallowa River thus the need to improve the water quality. There are 2 phases to the project. Phase 1 of a pipeline is primarily the main conveyance to the irrigators in North Prairie creek and supply water to 100 acres (2 landowners). The second phase will begin where is crosses North Prairie Creek and supply water to 1912 acres (14 landowners). The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be providing technical and financial assistance to the project. Wallowa Lake Irrigation District's patrons will be providing financial assistance and some inkind work as needed. The Wallowa SWCD will manage the grant and maintain the financial spreadsheet for all partners to review.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Project implementation will reduce flow by up to 30 cfs in Farmers Ditch.
- Prior piping projects have been successful, but the primarily benefited users at the point of application; this project will eliminate discharges of pollutants into 303(d) listed water bodies.
- The irrigation conveyance pipe will serve 1,912 acres of agricultural land.
- The project will have significant water quality benefits and reduce tail-water to Prairie Creek.
- Once this project is completed, approximately 75% of the irrigated area of Prairie Creek will have piped irrigation conveyance. The irrigated portion of the Prairie Creek watershed is approximately 15,000 acres.
- Water savings can be stored in Wallowa Lake and supplement flow during critical periods in the Wallowa River, providing fisheries benefit.
- The Wallowa Lake Irrigation District was recently formed. A change in leadership provided motivation to do these larger projects.
- Previous concerns regarding the reason for the ditch to remain open were explained during the site visit. It will be left in place for flood control and wildlife benefit, but not used for irrigation

Concerns

- No concerns were noted.

Concluding Analysis

Phase I of this project was previously submitted in the fall of 2017 and not recommended for funding. Since then, the NRCS provided funding for Phase I, which will install 2.8 miles of conveyance piping for 100 acres, and for design of Phase II. This project addresses Phase II, which will install 7.4 miles of pipe. The application was well written and detailed. Prairie Creek has ESA-listed spring Chinook and steelhead. The project is located in upper Prairie Creek where OWEB previously awarded nearly \$850,000 for 8 spur-ditch piping projects. Recent monitoring indicates an improving trend in water quality in Prairie Creek. By providing pressurized pipelines in lieu of spur ditches, excess water will not need to be conveyed through ditches to Prairie Creek.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$325,666

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$325,666

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5016-16389

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Area 23

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$55,476

Total Cost: \$131,021

Project Abstract *(from application)*

) Project location : Outside Jordan Valley, near Rome Oregon along Crooked Creek. 2) Watershed Issue: Bromus tectorum, known as drooping brome or cheatgrass, is a winter annual grass has become invasive in the Owyhee Watershed. This invasive weed provides poor habitat for all species of wildlife. Lack of water in the upper reaches of the rangeland has caused the cattle to congregate in the lower reaches, over utilizing Crooked Creek for water and forage. 3) Proposed Solution: NRCS installed a well last year and will install the solar system and two troughs to help spread livestock out and water availability for wildlife on top of the plateau. The SWCD and the landowner are proposing to spray 640 acres of Plateau by air, and then re-seed with 15 pounds per acre of a grass seed mixture (3640 # of crested wheatgrass, 1400 #, sandberg wheat grass and 560# of Thurbers Needlegrass) with a rangeland drill and tractor, followed by with two years of rest. This follows the Malheur County Weed Management (Gary Page) recommendation for controlling cheatgrass invasions. We are proposing to install 3 troughs fed by 6448 feet of pipeline from an existing NRCS well and installing a cistern (underground storage tank) between the well and NRCS first stock tank. Install 3 bird escape ladders. 4) No effectiveness monitoring is planned. 5) OWEB funds will be used to buy chemicals, grass seed mix, 3 troughs, cistern, and project management. The landowner and NRCS are cost-share partners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The well was installed previously with NRCS cost-share funding. Once the cisterns and troughs are installed, a rotational grazing system keeping livestock away from the riparian area can be implemented.
- The site visit revealed that there would be significant benefit to the riparian area by providing alternate water sources away from Crooked Creek.
- The application proposes two seasons of grazing rest post-seeding to ensure seed establishment.
- The landowners are enthusiastic about improving rangeland conditions.
- Core sage-grouse habitat is nearby and sage-grouse are present in the general vicinity of the project.

Concerns

- The application has inconsistent descriptions of the seed mix. The abstract included Thurber's needlegrass and the uploaded seed mix sheet substituted this with Ladak alfalfa.

- The budget lacked clarity and had some inconsistencies. The pipe installation cost appears inadequate; the miscellaneous item for trough fittings appears excessive; 2 cisterns are in the budget, but only 1 is included in the application; and the seed mix budget is nearly \$15,000 higher than the submitted bid.
- No grazing plan was included.
- Without designs, it was unclear how much water is available from the well to convey to the troughs and cistern.

Concluding Analysis

Located about 10 miles south of Rome, this project is in general sage-grouse habitat with core habitat a few miles to the north. Much of the surrounding landscape was burned by major fires over the last decade; however, the project area has not experienced any major fires. The property is adjacent to BLM land with a high concentration of sagebrush; eliminating cheatgrass will lower the potential for wildfire to spread. The landowners recently purchased the property and have been working to improve habitat conditions. Portions were seeded with forage kochia and crested wheatgrass, but germination rates were poor because of extreme drought experienced from 2013-2015. Implementation of rotational grazing will benefit upland vegetation and the Crooked Creek riparian area. Budget inconsistencies will be addressed through verification of project expenses during the course of the project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

13 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$55,476

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$55,476

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5017-16398

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: 2018 Upper Wallowa River
Restoration Project

Applicant: Wallowa Resources

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: \$204,051

Total Cost: \$358,697

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Upper Wallowa River project area encompasses 1 1/2 miles of the Wallowa River and West Fork Wallowa River, beginning near the confluence of BC Creek and flowing into Wallowa Lake. This section of the river is primarily managed for recreation with a mix of small property ownership, small businesses, and Wallowa Lake State Park. This area is a large attraction for tourists and important to the Wallowa County economy. The project area provides important habitat for salmonid species, including spawning and rearing area for Kokanee salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) as the river is a direct input to Wallowa Lake. The area also provides habitat for Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), although no spawning activity has been observed. Natural floodplain function along the reach has been degraded by anthropogenic encroachment and development, thereby reducing the habitat quality and quantity. This restoration project will: 1) enhance and restore habitat for Kokanee salmon, bull trout and Sockeye (if the Wallowa Lake dam is rebuilt); 2) improve habitat while protecting private and public property from the effects of catastrophic flooding by maintaining or improving bank stability; 3) capitalize on its location to create significant opportunities for outreach to the general public; Wallowa Lake State Park hosts over half a million people per year; and 4) serve as a model for floodplain restoration in semi-developed areas that is FEMA and NOAA compliant. While there are significant habitat benefits, this project is not of paramount ecological importance. We do believe the combined habitat and social benefits provide a profound opportunity to showcase a constructive win/win example for the coexistence of people and nature. Project partners include ODFW, OPRD, the Nez Perce Tribe, Wallowa Resources, and several private parties. This particular consortium of stakeholders creates an opportunity for significant outreach to a diverse group of Oregonians.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This is an opportunity to reactivate the floodplain within the project area.
- The project's location at Wallowa Lake State Park will be highly visible and provide an opportunity to demonstrate restoration practices to a diverse audience.
- Private landowners above the bridge will have the opportunity to use the design and obtain coverage under the DSL permit.
- The proposed restoration will benefit kokanee and bull trout.

Concerns

- The budget and project sequencing are unclear.
- Components quantified in the budget did not match with other parts of the application. For example, 77 proposed wood/boulder structures each contain two logs (154 total logs) and 3 boulders (231 total boulders); however the budget only requests funding for 72 total logs and 134 boulders.
- The planting plan lacks irrigation and plant protection.
- The cost per-tree for large wood installation is high. However, it was unclear if the unit cost is per log or per log structure.
- The excavation rate at \$11.94/cubic yard is high.
- Mobilization was included in the budget, but there is no equipment listed and unit costs were not provided.
- Sockeye habitat benefits are unclear since the status of re-introduction is unknown.
- The previous application stated that the bridge would be replaced by ODOT and that OPRD would then be responsible for future maintenance. However, it is not clear that the bridge replacement is still being planned.

Concluding Analysis

The project was submitted in fall 2017 and was not recommended for funding. Planned restoration will occur below Marina Bridge, which is not full-spanning. Bridge supports impede transportation of cobbles and sediment further down the Wallowa River and into Wallowa Lake. While work is proposed below the bridge, it is unclear whether the bridge supports will interfere with sediment transport, and whether bridge replacement needs to occur prior to ascertaining the impact of proposed restoration downstream. However, reducing the size of the parking lot at the State Park to implement proposed restoration work is beneficial. While the project has potential to benefit aquatic species in the Wallowa River, more information is required to make that determination.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5018-16328

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Lostine Wetland and Side Channel Complex

Applicant: Nez Perce Tribe

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: \$60,275

Total Cost: \$102,090

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This proposed project is located on a private ranch adjacent to the Lostine River, approximately 3 miles east of the town of Wallowa, Wallowa County, Oregon. The property is currently under two separate permanent easements totaling over 450 acres encompassing the main stem Lostine River, adjacent floodplain and riparian forest, and agricultural land. The landowner, the Wallowa Land Trust and project partners are seeking funds to restore stream and floodplain connectivity and function as well as create emergent wetland where deemed appropriate within the project area. Old channel and meander scrolls exist throughout the proposed project area illuminating the historic Lostine River channel, side channel and wetland network. The previous landowner kept much of the floodplain and dis-connected side channels protected from livestock grazing leaving old scrolls largely intact. This prior and current management allows for a more passive restoration approach including the removal or partial breach of existing levees. The current landowner maintains a long term commitment to restoration, protection and enhancement of resources. The NEOR Recovery Plan, the Grande Ronde Subbasin Plan (GRSBP), the Wallowa Atlas restoration prioritization process (Wallowa Atlas), and the Wallowa County Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan (WCSHRP), all identify this reach of the Lostine River as deficient for habitat quantity and quality, water quality, stream complexity, and floodplain connectivity. Species which will benefit include ESA listed spring/summer Chinook salmon, steelhead, bull Trout, Columbia Spotted Frog and others. With the collaboration of the landowner, the Wallowa Land Trust, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Grande Ronde Model Watershed, and the Nez Perce Tribe (sponsor), this project seeks technical assistance monies to survey, permit and design a floodplain and side channel re-integration project that will create or re-inundating emergent wetland communities.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The partnership involved with this project is likely to succeed as it has proven effective on past projects.
- The proposed design concept makes use of natural hydrologic conditions and includes detailed background on natural conditions to scope the proposed design.
- The previous easement and pivot investments will not be affected by the enhanced floodplain and wetland; the easement envisioned restoration in the riparian zone and set aside land for this purpose.
- Reconnecting the cottonwood galleries will provide high ecological uplift.

Concerns

- No concerns were noted.

Concluding Analysis

The floodplain reconnection and enhanced wetland has been part of a long-term vision for the site for over 15 years. The recently installed pivots funded by an OWRD SB 839 grant are not in the area proposed for the wetland and will not affect the restoration site. The proposed wetland area was never leveled or excavated and is now hydrologically disconnected by dikes. Numerous juniper are present on the site. Beaver reintroduction is also being considered in the design. Overall, the site is suitable for passive restoration.

The Lostine River is culturally significant to the Nez Perce Tribe for its salmonid habitat. Project implementation will have a positive impact on ESA-listed species such as Snake River steelhead, bull trout, Chinook salmon, Columbia spotted frog and re-introduced coho. Life stages for salmonids are limited due to lack of pool and backwater habitat, which the project will address. The project is complementary to many previous efforts implemented by the landowner.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$60,275

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$60,275

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5019-16331

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Foresee Erosion T-A

Applicant: Eagle Valley SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$26,840

Total Cost: \$33,763

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Located on Eagle Creek near Richland, Oregon in Baker County the project site is 2.5 miles from the point Eagle Creek enters the Powder River and is in a direct interrelationship with the Powder River Watershed. The landscape of this project consists of fenced riparian areas along the banks of Eagle Creek and irrigated pasture. The entire project site is located in critical bull trout habitat (Map 5, USFW Critical Habitat Maps) within the Powder River Basin Unit. The landowner has four sites of eroding bank totaling 1,100 feet that will be surveyed and designed through this project. Located only 2.5 miles from the Powder River and 1 mile from the Brownlee Reservoir, reducing the amount of sediment and debris entering into the watershed will benefit water quality and fish habitat. Once this technical assistance grant is completed, the restoration portion of this project will resolve watershed issues of; erosion, sedimentation, degrading fish habitat, flood risk to surrounding landowners and will improve upland/riparian land management and instream impacts to water quality listed in the USFWS Habitat Recovery Plan. The landowner came to the Eagle Valley SWCD proposing to develop a 100% construction ready design to anchor native tree revetments to the bank, install root wads and riparian plantings to restore proper bank stabilization.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- There is confidence in the engineer providing the technical designs.
- Proposed designs include the incorporation of native vegetation and rootwads.

Concerns

- The length of the stream reach to be analyzed was unclear. It appeared that the project would only focus on hot spots experiencing the most severe bank erosion.
- The application lacked detail and discussion around proposed treatments and their potential impact and unintended consequences to adjacent stream reaches.
- It was not clear if the landowner also owns land on the adjacent bank of Eagle Creek. It is unclear whether a future solution will adversely affect downstream and adjacent landowners who have not been contacted about the project.
- If funding for this project is not secured, boulders and large volumes of rock may be installed to address erosion, providing a less desirable solution to the natural resource problems.

- In order to address the areas of bank erosion, a wider stream corridor is needed, requiring a more holistic approach to the design than that contemplated in the application.

Concluding Analysis

Eagle Creek's critical bull trout habitat was compromised by recent severe high-flow events in an altered landscape. A restoration application to install logs, root wads, willow plantings and revetments submitted in Fall 2017 was not recommended for funding. The review team recommended the applicant submit a technical assistance grant to obtain more in-depth designs. The landowner's motivation is to address erosion occurring at several areas where portions of the field in agricultural production are being lost. Due to a previous high-flow event in 2010, fences had to be moved further back in the field west of Eagle Creek.

The project's objective is to develop a 100% construction-ready design that addresses 1,100 feet of eroding bank. While a solution to the present bank erosion is needed, the design will need to address impacts to adjacent properties and a more holistic approach addressing the causes rather than the symptoms of bank erosion.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5020-16335

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: A Difficult Survey and Design

Applicant: Owyhee WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$28,930

Total Cost: \$42,380

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project will take place approximately 38 air miles South of Jordan Valley on Browns and Difficulty Ridges between the Owyhee and Middle Owyhee Rivers. Four years ago, the private landowner approached OWC and DSL with a rough draft plan to enhance sage grouse habitat through expansion of a wet-meadow and improving grazing management across a 15,748-acre sage steppe area in the Owyhee Uplands. Due to the remote nature and geographic complexities of implementing such a large-scale restoration project, all parties agreed a project wide topographic survey, alternatives analysis, and project design was necessary before selecting a restoration implementation plan. The proposed work will include a full topographic survey of the proposed livestock watering and wet-meadow irrigation pipelines. A topographic survey will allow the stakeholder group to analyze all alternatives and design options before selecting the most cost-effective and purposeful approach to restoring wet-meadow habitat and grazing management across the 15,748-acre project area. Project partners include: Owyhee Watershed Council, Private Landowner, Oregon Department of State Lands, Trout Unlimited, NRCS, USFWS

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- A reliable pipeline will enable the permittee to implement rotational grazing. Dispersed water sources will help distribute livestock more evenly, resulting in more even grazing patterns promoting vigor and diversity in the native upland vegetation.
- Grazing deferment will be for three years.
- There are strong partnerships including DSL, Trout Unlimited (TU) and NRCS. The appropriate partners are involved to provide necessary project oversight.
- Project funding for implementation is secured.

Concerns

- The proposal lacked clarity around the wet-meadow concept, its proposed function and habitat value.
- The application failed to address the benefit(s) of the future restoration project(s) on sage-grouse brood-rearing habitat.
- There was no grazing plan included. It would have been helpful to understand how future land use and restoration work together to achieve the desired ecological outcomes.

Concluding Analysis

The project is in a remote area of southeast Oregon surrounded by core sage-grouse habitat. Sage-grouse habitat will be enhanced by expanding wet-meadow habitat and improved grazing management. If the water right needs to be changed, OWRD can consider beneficial use for wildlife. DSL will provide in-house cultural resource surveys on the trough pipeline route and trough locations. Due to the remote nature and geographic complexities, a topographic survey is needed for the livestock watering and wet-meadow irrigation pipeline.

The area proposed for future restoration is located in the Three Forks Conservation Opportunity Area, which is one of the largest blocks of high-quality sagebrush habitat. An engineered design will provide the project partners with alternatives to determine a final design. Appropriate partners including USFWS, ODFW, OWRD, NRCS, DSL, TU, Owyhee Watershed Council and the landowner will be involved in reviewing the final design. While the grazing plan was not included, it seems logical that technical design and location of future troughs needs to be determined prior to developing a final grazing plan. Future implementation will improve upland vegetation in sage-grouse habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$28,930

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5021-16341

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Cusick Creek: The Restoration Continues Phase II

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Union

OWEB Request: \$29,488

Total Cost: \$36,688

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) Cusick Creek is located approx 30 miles North of Baker City and approx 10 miles from North Powder. The Cusick Creek watershed drains approximately 14 square miles or 9,100 acres of land and flows into Thief Valley Reservoir on the Powder River. 2) The upper reaches of Cusick Creek are confined to a moderately narrow canyon and due to past land management practices has become more incised with moderated to severe bank erosion. Fish habitat and the properly functioning condition of the stream have been greatly compromised in these reaches. The lower reach has been restored to a functioning stream. This proposal is the start of Phase II. The previous surveys did not extend this far upstream. 3) We are applying for funds to hire an engineer to complete a survey, hydrologic analysis, develop alternatives, and to develop a 60% design from the selected alternatives. 4) Partners are the landowner, Malheur WSC, RSI engineering, and design reviewers.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The previously implemented phase is functioning well.
- The project area is located in general sage-grouse habitat that is surrounded by core habitat; future restoration in the riparian area will improve brood-rearing habitat.
- A future restoration project provides opportunity for restoration success in the Powder basin, an area with limited landowner participation in similar projects.

Concerns

- There is uncertainty regarding the status of the post-grazing plan after restoration.

Concluding Analysis

The first phase of the project is enrolled in CREP and is properly managed. A site visit to the previous project indicated vegetation has responded well and channel width is narrowing. Installed cages and plantings are functioning with excellent survival and growth. Past grazing and headcut propagation combined with a highly unstable hydrograph ranging from 2 cfs to 1,258 cfs has resulted in channel

instability.

Project designs will help further restoration efforts along Cusick Creek. This is the second phase of a three-phase effort. This project is complementary to the other phases. Implementation will address channel instability, riparian vegetation and hydrologic analyses. The design will be a combination of hard and soft techniques. Additional improvement to the riparian area will be beneficial to sage-grouse and improve wet meadow habitat by reconnecting the floodplain.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$29,488

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5022-16394

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Hwy 20 Wildlife Crossings
Feasibility Study

Applicant: Burns Paiute Tribe

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$73,875

Total Cost: \$93,414

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed project is located along U.S. Highway 20 between Juntura and Harper, Oregon, in the Malheur watershed. U.S. Highway 20, which lacks dedicated elements to facilitate wildlife and habitat connectivity, fragments important habitats in the watershed by imposing a large physical barrier to wildlife and habitat connectivity. This fragmentation results in impaired ecosystem function and services, impairs connectivity and the ability of species to access important resources along the Malheur River riparian corridor, and results in myriad wildlife-vehicle collisions. U.S. Highway 20 currently imposes limitations on wildlife population movement and resource access, ecosystem function and processes, and watershed function and resiliency. In addition, current conditions in the proposed project area pose important safety risks to people and wildlife alike caused by vehicle collisions. For these reasons, facilitating steps to design remediation addressing these limitations is warranted. In order to identify remediation countermeasures, the following steps will be implemented: 1) development of a landscape-scale assessment of wildlife and habitat connectivity and limiting factors to wildlife and habitat connectivity, 2) feasibility assessment and alternatives analysis of potential countermeasure alternatives to address connectivity and vehicle collisions, 3) selection and prioritization of countermeasures with collaboration of state agencies and stakeholders, and 4) preparation of preliminary design, cost estimates, and an implementation plan of selected countermeasures. This work will be developed through a close collaborative partnership and support from the Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Wildlife Foundation, Oregon Hunters Association, Audubon Society, and Oregon Natural Desert Association.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project's geography addresses a section of highway 20 with an unusually high number of wildlife/vehicle collisions.
- Obtaining site-specific topography for locations of frequent collisions will aid in planning for off-stream water projects.

Concerns

- The application lacked clarity regarding consideration of highway management alternatives, such as flashing lights, warning signs and a lower speed limit, that can be implemented without a this

technical assessment.

- It is unclear whether ODOT is willing or able to implement the proposed solutions from the technical analysis.
- ODFW was not listed as one of the entities to help approve the design. Their participation is essential to ensure the technical soundness of approaches that deal with wildlife populations and migration
- The application does not list all of the “red hot” zones and appears to be only addressing the Jonesboro ranch area.
- The application does not provide information about wildlife habitat and migration corridors.

Concluding Analysis

Highway 20 is the main travel corridor between Bend and Boise. The section of Highway 20 addressed in this application experiences unusually high wildlife/vehicle collisions. The analysis will inform potential placement of off-stream water, which has been successful in another location with similar collisions. Since areas of collisions are known and wildlife migration patterns and habitat connectivity are not documented, the applicant should consider highway infrastructure improvements that facilitate wildlife passage.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$73,875

Review Team Conditions

ODFW needs to participate in design development and approval.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5023-16334

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Pine Creek Assessment

Applicant: Eagle Valley SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$78,710

Total Cost: \$107,350

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Pine Creek Watershed located near Halfway, Oregon is a high priority area for bull trout recovery actions listed in the 2015 Mid-Columbia Recovery Unit Implementation Plan for Bull Trout (Recovery Plan). Restoring fish passage within migratory corridors of the Pine Creek Watershed is emphasized in the Recovery Plan and "Connectivity Impairment" is listed as a primary threat for bull trout in the Pine Creek/Indian/Wildhorse core area. The Connectivity Impairment threat focuses on dewatering, entrainment (loss through irrigation withdrawals), and passage barriers caused by water diversions and impeded connectivity between spawning populations and feeding, migration, overwintering (FMO) habitats. Many irrigation diversions located within the Pine Creek Watershed are antiquated, unscreened and present seasonal barriers to native migratory fish, are difficult to maintain, and have been damaged by high water events, harming critical Bull Trout habitat. This stakeholder engagement grant proposes to complete a comprehensive assessment of water diversion/delivery systems diverting five cubic feet per second (cfs) or greater within the Pine Creek Watershed that can be used as a tool to evaluate and rank future point of diversion (POD) consolidations and ditch piping projects. Outreach efforts were completed early in 2018 by the Eagle Valley SWCD, reaching out to 18 ditch users on qualifying diversions for this assessment ensuring project interest and participation (see Letters of Support). This assessment will provide valuable information for funding entities to develop priority areas and to focus on large scale projects. Project partners will include Idaho Power Company (IPC), Eagle Valley SWCD, OWRD and NRCS.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed stakeholder engagement is an essential first step to address limiting factors affecting bull trout populations, specifically fish passage and instream flow restoration associated with diversions.
- A previous outreach effort and diversion survey identified multiple landowners who are willing to install fish-friendly diversions and/or consolidate points-of-diversions (POD's).
- The project will assist landowners and participating partners in identifying potential funding opportunities for implementation in the future.
- The SWCD is the most appropriate entity to work with reluctant landowners.

Concerns

- No concerns were articulated.

Concluding Analysis

East Pine Creek has the largest population of bull trout in the Pine Creek basin. To achieve the most ecological benefit, this targeted approach will engage landowners who divert more than 4 cfs, which includes 23 of the 202 diversions in the watershed.

This stakeholder engagement will provide a comprehensive assessment of these diversions to determine where to invest partner funding. It will help identify and rank future POD consolidations and ditch piping projects. The appropriate partners are involved with this project and include Idaho Power, NRCS, OWRD and Eagle Valley SWCD. Implementation of fish-friendly diversions is vital to bull trout recovery in the Pine Creek basin.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 1

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$78,710

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

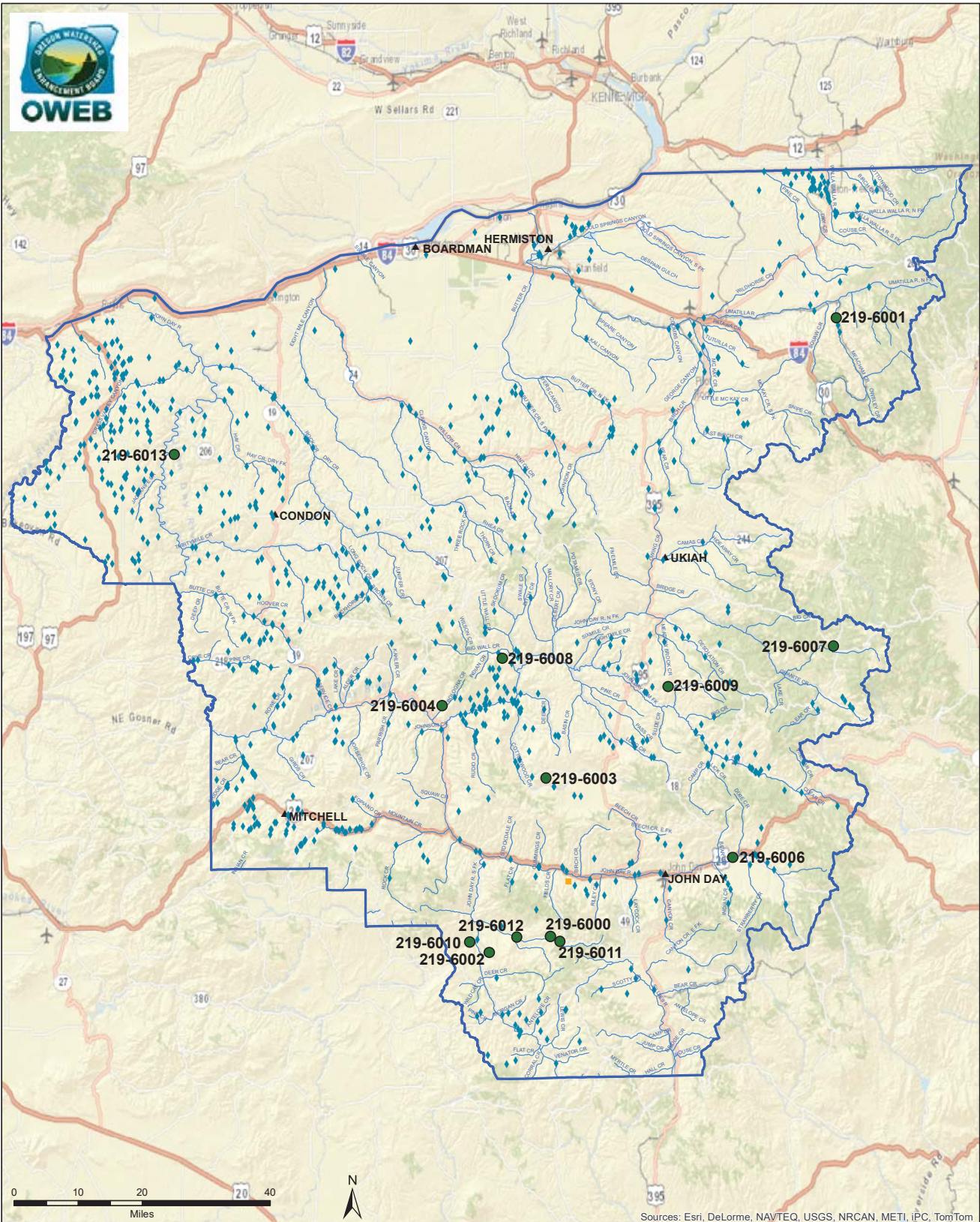
Staff Recommended Amount

\$78,710

Staff Conditions

None

Mid-Columbia - Region 6 Spring 2018 Funding Recommendations



Document Path: Z:\oweb\Technical_Services\Information_GIS\Maps\Review Team Meetings\2018SpringCycle\Projects\Region6_AppFundingStatus_11x17_2018Spring.mxd
 ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB- PK Wilsa 20180925

Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, NRCAN, METI, iPC, TomTom

Funding Recommendations

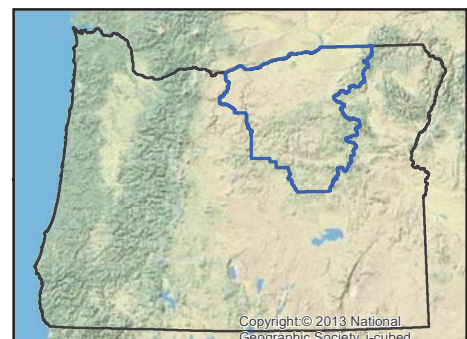
- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants - 1998-2017

- ◆ Restoration Acquisitions
- Stream
- Region Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Region 6 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

Region 6 - Mid-Columbia Basin

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
|-----------|---|---|---|--------------------|----------|
| 219-6001 | Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation | Meacham Creek Bonifer Reach Floodplain Restoration and In-stream Habitat Enhancement Project Area 2 | Building on prior restoration done on an important native fish stream in Umatilla County, this project will improve habitat and increase Meacham Creek by ~3/4 miles. | 403,059 | Umatilla |
| 219-6006 | Grant SWCD | Upper John Day River Fish Passage Improvement Project Phase II | Replacing two irrigation push-up dams with fish-friendly diversions, this project improves a pump station and creates habitat for native fish in the upper main stem John Day River. | 331,747 | Grant |
| 219-6007 | North Fork John Day WC | Trail Creek Bridge | This project replaces a culvert that currently stops fish from swimming upstream with a bridge, opening up over 25 miles of critical high-elevation habitat for native fish. | 273,943 | Grant |
| 219-6009 | North Fork John Day WC | Lick Creek Restoration | Building on previous restoration actions to protect Lick Creek, this project constructs almost a mile of riparian fence along Upper Lick Creek and develops four upland water sources for livestock and wildlife. | 19,710 | Grant |
| 219-6000 | Cascade Pacific RC&D | Murderers Creek Upland Water | Develops 17 water sources for livestock and wildlife in the uplands on over 14,000 acres, and complements proposed riparian exclusion fencing on both Murderer's and Deer Creek. | 30,629 | Grant |
| 219-6003 | Monument SWCD | Boag Creek Uplands Restoration | This project clears an entire basin of invasive juniper, monitors water temperature and flow where it joins Cottonwood Creek. This project complements an additional juniper removal in adjacent drainages. | 264,500 | Grant |
| 219-6008 | Monument SWCD | Top Ranch Integrated Resource Management | This project removes 194 acres of juniper, installs 1½ miles of riparian fencing on both sides of Fern Creek, installs cross fencing and develops three upland water sources for livestock and wildlife use. | 144,812 | Grant |

Region 6 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

| Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order Continued | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|---|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 219-6004 | Bridge Creek WC | Bologna Creek Watershed Improvement 1 | This project will remove 740 acres of juniper, spray for weeds and reseed 72 acres and develop one spring for water in the uplands used by both livestock and wildlife. | 190,702 | Grant |
| 219-6002 | Cascade Pacific RC&D | Magic Lantern Upland Initiative | This project removes 200 acres of juniper, builds buck and pole fence to protect an aspen grove, and develops one water source for wildlife and livestock. | 65,999 | Grant |
| Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff | | | | 1,725,101 | |
| Restoration Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| | | None | | | |
| Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | 1,725,101 | |
| Restoration Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County | |
| 219-6005 | Gilliam SWCD | Hewes Diversion Removal and Channel Restoration | 92,402 | | |

Region 6 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

| Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--|--|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 219-6011 | Cascade Pacific RC&D | Tex Creek Riparian Design | Exploring restoration alternatives, this Technical Assistance grant will develop engineered designs and initiate permitting to open up and improve over four miles of fish habitat on Tex Creek in Grant county. | 74,800 | Grant |
| 219-6010 | Cascade Pacific RC&D | Wind Creek Restoration Assessment | This technical assistance grant will develop a restoration assessment and restoration plan for 15 miles of critical fish habitat in the Wind Creek watershed. It would also fund a required survey that locates any historic cultural sites prior to a 500 acre juniper removal project. | 58,719 | Grant |
| 219-6012 | Cascade Pacific RC&D | South Fork Cooperative Data Collection | A critical component of the collaborative Coordinated Resource Management Planning group, this proposal will gather important upland and riparian information in the lower South Fork John Day Basin. | 44,533 | Grant |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff | | | | 178,052 | |
| Technical Assistance Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| | | None | | | |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | 178,052 | |
| Technical Assistance Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Amount | County | |
| | | None | | | |

Region 6 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County |
| 219-6013 | Gilliam SWCD | Lower John Day RCPP Stakeholder Engagement | Coordinating a landscape-scale restoration proposal that covers over 210 miles of important native fish streams, this stakeholder engagement proposal will invite all people who live or own property in multiple basins to meet and discuss resource concerns and conservation options. Technical staff will follow up by visiting each property to further discuss conservation alternatives and provide landowners with maps of their property. | 46,734 | Gilliam |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff | | | | 46,734 | |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | | Amount | County |
| | | None | | | |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT | | | | 46,734 | |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Not Recommended for Funding by RRT | | | | | |
| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | | Amount | County |
| 219-6014 | Blue Mountain Land Trust | Building a Community Vision for the North Bank of the Umatilla River | | 17,081 | Umatilla |
| Region 6 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award | | | | 1,949,887 | 21.13% |
| Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award | | | | 9,226,487 | |

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6000-16301

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Murderers Creek Upland Water

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$30,629

Total Cost: \$75,724

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project is located on the Malheur National Forest Service, Blue Mountain Ranger District's, grazing allotments within the South Fork John Day Watershed. More specifically the Murderers creek allotment, which is broken into 12 pastures. The project is also located within the Murderers Creek Mule Deer Initiative area, and also the Murderers Creek Wild Horse Management Unit. The permittee is working with ODFW and the Forest Service to fence the critical habitat within the allotment, to assist the distribution of livestock use away from sensitive areas. This will limit the water supply for wildlife as well as livestock. We are proposing to develop 7 of 17 off-channel water sources, strategically placed throughout 2 of the allotment pastures, across 14,000 acres. The permittee will develop 10, and we are requesting assistance from OWEB to develop the remaining 7. This upland water will assist in better utilization of the uplands, attracting livestock away from critical habitat, and provide additional water for wildlife in an arid environment. Partners included in the project include the South Fork John Day Watershed Council, Malheur National Forest Service Range Department, and Grazing allotment permittee. OWEB funds will be used for contracted services to install the developments, some materials, and project management.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The permittee is working with the USFS, is very motivated and is investing resources to expand the project scope. This provides a high level of confidence in the long-term sustainability and maintenance of the project.
- Combined with proposed riparian fencing, this project provides strong ecological benefits by helping to keep livestock and feral horses in the uplands and away from important steelhead streams.
- By staying within the footprint of the original spring developments, the existing NEPA approval will suffice and simplify the permitting obligations of the project.
- The application includes photos of each site which are keyed to the spring site inventory data sheet.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies Murderer's Creek as a high priority location for restoration with the associated components ranked as medium priority actions.

Concerns

- The application did not provide specific design specs for the spring developments; however, USFS guidelines will be followed, including that troughs will be well-anchored, inlets and outlets protected,

wildlife escape ramps installed, and trees strategically felled to protect spring box sources.

- Under ODFW's current restoration prioritization process, funding for riparian fencing is uncertain.
- Some of the prior evaluation's concerns were not adequately addressed, including clarifying the role of the watershed council, the lack of conceptual designs for the spring developments, and managing work in challenging terrain.
- The application would have been stronger if the map also linked to the photos and the inventory.

Concluding Analysis

This application is a resubmittal from last cycle, and although not all of the prior submittals evaluation comments were addressed, the application was improved with more photos that were keyed to the spring inventory document. Having strategically placed upland water sources will help alleviate riparian damage and result in ecological benefits.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$30,629

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Staff contacted the ODFW fencing program lead and at this time, it is not known where this site will rank; however, it is on the list and is in a priority area for steelhead recovery.

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$30,629

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6001-16322

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Meacham Creek Bonifer Reach
Floodplain Restoration and In-stream Habitat
Enhancement Project Area 2

Applicant: Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian
Reservation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: \$403,059

Total Cost: \$784,152

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project is located on Meacham Creek, a major tributary to the Umatilla River, at approximately river miles 3.25-4.05. Over the past 150 years, the Meacham Creek floodplain has been systematically degraded through removal of riparian vegetation and constriction of the stream channel largely as a result of railroad operations. The confined and straightened channel of Meacham Creek lacks floodplain connectivity and habitat complexity for Endangered Species Act-listed Middle Columbia summer steelhead and Columbia River bull trout, as well as Chinook salmon and Pacific lamprey that utilize the watershed. In order to remedy the factors impacting the Meacham Creek floodplain, the CTUIR is proposing to reconnect a relic channel in a currently inactive portion of the floodplain in order to increase floodplain connectivity, off-channel habitat, sinuosity, and habitat complexity. Additionally, large wood will be added to the reach in engineered jams and single pieces to increase in-stream habitat complexity, aggrade the existing channel, and add floodplain roughness. This proposed project is the third year of implementation of a 4-5 year larger, phased project. The CTUIR is partnering with several agencies on this work including Bonneville Power Administration, OWEB, US Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries' Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on restoration that started in 2011, on an important steelhead and Chinook stream, ultimately resulting in over four miles of improved, critical cold-water habitat.
- The property is in tribal ownership, and is likely to remain protected.
- Designs incorporate lessons learned from previous phases and allow for a more passive approach with less disturbance.
- The project is based on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla's First Foods philosophy of restoring natural resource process and function to collectively improve foods and habitat, important to their culture.
- The establishment of riparian vegetation on the first project phase was successful, with healthy cottonwood galleries and willows.

- Extensive monitoring (fish, water quality and floodplain/groundwater connection) has been and continues to be done on this site. This will provide important information on effectiveness of restoration techniques implemented over more than a ten year period.
- Restoration is being done upstream to downstream, so flows can move seed sources, gravels, and wood to new sites.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies Meacham Creek watershed as a high priority location for restoration with the associated restoration components ranked as high/highest priority actions.

Concerns

- The application would have been easier to understand with the inclusion of a high-elevation overview of the proposed project site, alongside the other upstream phases.
- With the more passive approach, it was unclear which channels will have water during low flow periods.

Concluding Analysis

This project is a continuation of a comprehensive, large-scale restoration on a stream that is critical habitat to not only steelhead and Chinook but also Pacific lamprey, cold-water mussels and other important aquatic species. The previous phases show the applicant has both the technical expertise and the capacity to succeed in a project of this size. The hybrid passive approach to reconnecting floodplains and adding complexity to channel habitat could inform future restoration in similar settings, as well as the ongoing, comprehensive monitoring done since before the first project was installed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$403,059

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$403,059

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6002-16323

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Magic Lantern Upland Initiative

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$65,999

Total Cost: \$84,369

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Magic Lantern Creek is a tributary of the Wild and Scenic South Fork John Day River, located on the Rockpile Ranch, owned by Mike Phillips. The Rockpile Ranch is working with ODFW to enhance Mule Deer habitat in this area of the Murderers Creek Mule Deer Initiative, and Sustainable Northwest to remove over 150 acres of Western Juniper, and supply this Juniper to a sawmill. The Ranch has requested that the South Fork John Day Watershed Council assist in the continuation of removing additional Juniper, protection of one acre Aspen stand, and development of 1 spring source. OWEB funds are being requested in order to construct approximately 800 feet of a protective buck and pole fence, labor and materials to install one upland water development, and contracted services to remove 150 acres of Juniper.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on significant juniper work done by the landowner, including using a portable mill, a practice that, if economically feasible, could encourage additional juniper removal projects.
- The project proposes to utilize juniper to produce the buck and poles used in the aspen fence, if it proves cost-effective and is within the budgeted \$7/per pole.
- The project site was identified as a site that would benefit from protection in the OWEB-funded technical assistance aspen inventory.
- The project benefits wildlife, is in the ODFW Mule Deer Initiative Area, and is also an important elk wintering area.
- Good management of the native grasses and shrubs was observed on the site visit.
- The landowner has successfully used a drip torch to keep young junipers from re-establishing.
- The project complements similar work being done on the neighboring ODFW Philip Schneider Wildlife Area.
- The application included specifics on the juniper removal that were clear and easy to understand.
- Magic Lantern Creek watershed is noted as a priority area in ODFW's Mule Deer Initiative plan.

Concerns

- The grazing plan lacks details needed to determine how it complements the proposed restoration work.

Concluding Analysis

The project builds on an innovative approach by milling the juniper on site, and includes a sound plan to maintain project benefits over the long-term. On the site visit, the land manager was enthusiastic about the project and it was clear his goal is to improve wildlife habitat and return the landscape to resilient health. This is the first time the landowner has approached the watershed council for assistance in restoration and is the result of the Council's efforts to reinvigorate the Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) in the South Fork John Day River Basin.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

9 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$65,999

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$65,999

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6003-16347

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Boag Creek Uplands Restoration

Applicant: Monument SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$264,500

Total Cost: \$373,091

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Boag Creek is a perennial, non-fish bearing tributary of Cottonwood Creek located in northwest Grant County approximately 13 miles south of the town of Monument, Oregon. Cottonwood Creek is a critical spawning and rearing habitat stream for ESA listed (Threatened) Middle-Columbia River steelhead that drains into the North Fork John Day River. Monument SWCD's Cottonwood Creek Focus Area Action Plan has identified the Boag Creek drainage as likely to adversely affect water quality through the Water Quality Land Condition Assessment with western juniper encroachment being a contributing factor to this classification. This project will see to hand cutting and piling of juniper across the entire 1,032-acre Boag Creek watershed. Water temperature and flow monitoring will occur prior to treatment and continue for two years following the juniper removal to evaluate the effectiveness of the watershed scale juniper removal. An additional 885-acres of juniper control will be conducted in adjacent drainages through matching funds provide by the Title II grant program and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Recent studies have shown juniper removal to result in greater water quantity and quality while also benefitting wildlife habitat and rangeland health. Partners for the project include the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service, Malheur National Forest, Monument SWCD, private landowners, and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project proposes a ridgetop-to-ridgetop approach, strategically identifying sites where juniper removal will provide the highest ecological benefit on a landscape scale.
- By removing juniper and allowing native grasses and shrubs to proliferate, sediment generation into Cottonwood Creek will be reduced and water quality improved.
- This project complements work in the Cottonwood Creek watershed, including:
 - o An ODA Focus Area;
 - o The OWEB funded CAST (Cottonwood Action to Stabilize Temperature) project;
 - o The OWEB funded Technical Assistance Cottonwood Creek Sediment Control project; and
 - o Restoration and monitoring being done upstream on Fox Creek.
- The property includes Cottonwood Creek and is all riparian fenced and in great condition - including at the confluence of Boag Creek and Cottonwood Creek.
- Although Boag Creek is a non-fish bearing tributary at this time, it provides critical cold water to Cottonwood Creek, important habitat for ESA-listed steelhead.

- Temperature and flow monitoring is already being installed at the mouth of Boag Creek to establish baseline conditions. If this project is awarded, follow-up monitoring will continue to gage trends after juniper is reduced on the landscape.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies Cottonwood Creek watershed as a high priority location for restoration with the associated restoration component ranked as a high priority action.

Concerns

- The smaller of the two land holdings is currently for sale with no assurance it will be included as part of this project.

Concluding Analysis

The application is well-written and clearly states objectives and describes how they will be met. On the site visit in July, it was clear the property was well-managed and abundant cold water was observed coming out of Boag Creek. Removing juniper can only serve to increase these habitat benefits for both wildlife in the uplands and instream for aquatic species using Cottonwood Creek. This project also builds and complements the benefits of extensive and ongoing planning, monitoring, and restoration efforts in the watershed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$264,500

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$264,500

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6004-16364

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Bologna Creek Watershed Improvement 1

Applicant: Bridge Creek WC

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$190,702

Total Cost: \$308,672

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Bologna Creek watershed is a smaller watershed within the LJD-Kahler Creek HUC in northeast Wheeler County. The increase of western juniper has created a decline in desirable shrubs and herbaceous vegetation in the watershed. Decreased infiltration and increased runoff reduce water quantity and quality during critical times of the year. The project will remove 740 acres of western juniper, treat 72 acres of weeds, primarily medusahead, reseed 72 acres and develop one spring. An additional 119 acres of forest stand improvement, 55 acres of juniper and two spring developments will be completed through the NRCS EQIP program. Partners include the four private landowners in the watershed, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is supported by an effective partnership with leverage from all four landowners in the watershed, NRCS and USFS.
- The project builds on past and planned restoration in this watershed.
- The project implements a whole watershed approach which will result in proportionate ecological benefits.
- Three of the four landowners are in the process of enrolling their riparian areas in CREP.
- The upper basin understories are healthy with native grasses and shrubs; the lower basin has good cottonwood galleries in the riparian areas.
- Removing juniper is likely to improve flow conditions on Bologna Creek, an identified steelhead stream.
- Three of the four landowners are new to restoration; this project could expand future restoration opportunities.
- Prescribed fire will be used post-project to help keep juniper from expanding out of appropriate sites in the future.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies Bologna Creek as a medium priority location for restoration with the associated components ranked as the highest restoration actions.

Concerns

- The grazing management plans provided were not legible.

- The terrain is steep and challenging to work in.
- The application lacked discussion on flow monitoring to measure the effectiveness of juniper removal.

Concluding Analysis

Bologna Creek is a steelhead stream that suffers from low flows from mid-summer to late fall. Removing juniper at a watershed scale is likely to provide additional and sustained flows that will allow steelhead to escape warm temperatures in the John Day River and gain access to good quality habitat higher in the drainage. Successful restoration in this basin could result in additional projects by these landowners in the future, including collaboration with the Umatilla Forest Collaborative on restoration work planned in the headwaters of this watershed. The review team suggested juniper being cut in and adjacent to the riparian areas could be dropped in the stream channel to increase habitat complexity.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$190,702

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$190,702

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6005-16376

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Hewes Diversion Removal And Channel Restoration

Applicant: Gilliam SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Gilliam

OWEB Request: \$92,402

Total Cost: \$216,467

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project is located in Gilliam County 16 miles north of Condon in the Lower Rock Creek Watershed. The project is on Rock Creek approximately 20 miles upstream from the confluence with the John Day River. During high flows, steelhead enter the abandoned Hewes diversion dam and become trapped as flows recede resulting in threatened species fatalities. Additionally, high flows strike the concrete structure and careen into the eastern streambank introducing large amounts of sediment into the system. Rock Creek is an important lower basin steelhead spawning and rearing stream in the Lower John Day. This project proposes to completely remove the concrete diversion structure; enhance side channel habitat by placing large wood structures, boulder clusters and regrade the disturbed channel to natural stream form. Banks will be sloped back, seeded and planted. Project partners include Gilliam County SWCD, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, and two local Gilliam County landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- There is good collaboration between state agencies, tribes, and the landowner.
- The project gives the creek an opportunity to attain new equilibrium and reconnect with the floodplain.
- The site is enrolled in CREP, and therefore is protected while it is under contract.
- Permits are secured and 80% designs are provided with the application.
- Riparian planting is well-explained and appropriately budgeted.
- Most of the previous evaluation concerns were addressed and the applicant secured additional leverage.
- The project complements previous restoration done on Rock Creek.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies Rock Creek in the lower John Day Basin as a moderate location for restoration with the identified actions ranking from medium up to the highest priority level.

Concerns

- The design of the side channel led to concern about possible fish entrapment during low flows.

- There is lack of clarity about water rights, including: 1) even though it is a junior right, whether it would be leased instream if not utilized; 2) whether there will be a future irrigation diversion constructed and if so, what type of structure will be necessary to divert the water; and 3) whether future work would impact the proposed restoration.
- Wood structures are likely to be dry during low flow periods, which could accelerate rotting; using juniper may mitigate some of that concern.
- This is an extremely arid site for riparian vegetation and there is uncertainty about the likelihood of 75% plant survival.
- Removing the concrete structure was wholly supported; however the designs are still over-engineered.
- ODFW's one-year entrapment data for this site was inconclusive about numbers of steelhead being stranded in the concrete structure.
- The design appears to shorten the main stem channel, potentially increasing erosive force.

Concluding Analysis

This proposal is a resubmittal, following an OWEB-funded technical assistance grant for designs. On the site visit, it appeared that the project could simply remove the concrete structure; however the landowner was concerned about losing more land to erosion and the resulting impacts to the identified wetland. Removing the abandoned concrete diversion structure was overwhelmingly supported, but there were still enough questions about the overall design, the water rights, and any potential future diversion structures to not recommend funding at this time. The application would have been stronger with more justification for riparian and channel work, more clarity on the water right, and a clear description of anticipated stream processes and potential impact to habitat improvements.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6006-16379

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper John Day River Fish
Passage Improvement Project Phase II

Applicant: Grant SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$341,750

Total Cost: \$432,273

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project is located in the Upper John Day Basin between John Day and Prairie City. Two annually constructed gravel push-up dams are installed each year; the Diversion Ditch is used to divert 7.9 cfs of water from the John Day River to serve 317 acres; the Bradford Ditch is used to divert 2.46 cfs of water from the John Day River to serve 157 acres. The associated water rights priority dates range from 1867 to 1952, supporting both pasture and hay production. A pump station which supplies the adjacent Prairie Wood Products mill with industrial water also uses the dam as a pumping hole. These diversions can impede fish passage for some life stages of salmonoids under low flow conditions and contribute to annual disturbances of the stream bed, banks and riparian vegetation within their operational footprint. The project river reach is also accessed seasonally by livestock, limiting full expression of riparian hard wood establishment and growth. The proposed project will replace each diversion with low head structures consisting of engineered rock riffles and submerged inlet boxes to create consistent fish passage opportunities for all life stages through the structure and remove the annual channel disturbance required by push-up dam operations. The pump station will be upgraded for efficiency and affixed with ODFW fish screens. Large wood features will be incorporated to provide fish habitat and the stream corridor will be fully fenced to remove livestock disturbance. Project partners include the landowner, Bureau of Reclamation, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is well written – the “what” and “why” of the project are clearly stated.
- The project builds on previous restoration in this reach of the John Day River, and is the second of three phases planned to address all ten diversions on the property. Once all phases have been completed, 14 miles of important steelhead and Chinook spawning and rearing habitat will be accessible.
- The type of irrigation diversion structure proposed is well liked by landowners because of the decreased need for maintenance and the ability to better manage water rights with flow measuring devices incorporated into the design.
- Roughened channel diversions will eliminate the need for constructing push-up dams.
- The channel is overwidened in the push-up dam areas; the removal of the dams would not only address passage, but improve channel morphology and water temperatures.

- This is in an aquatic habitat transition zone (lower end of Chinook rearing areas) and is a high priority for ODFW.
- The fencing component of the project adds to other reaches already excluding livestock grazing from riparian areas on this property.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies this area of the upper John Day River main stem as a high priority location for restoration with the associated restoration components ranked as the high/highest actions.

Concerns

- Relative to the pump station component of the design:
 - What are the water rights and priority dates for the industrial pump site?
 - Why is a new pump necessary for a business site that isn't operational?
 - What are the specific ecological benefits from this component of the project?
- The budget includes costs for 30" pipe for both diversion sites; however, the related water rights vary. Sizing to each water right would have provided a more accurate budget line item.
- The designs would have been stronger with more detail added for the roughened riffles and the integrated pump hole.

Concluding Analysis

This project is phase two of a three-phase project that will remove fish passage barriers to all life stages of steelhead and Chinook, as well as other aquatic species, opening access to over 14 miles of habitat on the upper main stem John Day River. The application was well written and easy to understand, except for the pump station component. The industrial site in question is not operational at this time; the other two diversion sites were clearly explained and provide high ecological benefits.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

2 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$331,747

Review Team Conditions

Reduce budget line item for pump station in the amount of \$10,000 and exclude new pump and associated pipe from eligible costs.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$331,747

Staff Conditions

Reduce pump station line item in budget by \$10,000 and shift pump and associated pipe to match.

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6007-16390

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Trail Creek Bridge

Applicant: North Fork John Day WC

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$273,943

Total Cost: \$1,177,593

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Located in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, North of the rural town of Granite in NE Grant County, Trail Creek is a headwater tributary to the North Fork of the John Day River in Grant County. One failing and undersized culvert currently impedes fish passage to potential spawning and rearing habitat. This Culvert is located at the intersection of County Road 52 and Trail Creek, just before the confluence with the North Fork. Identified as a priority in the pending Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Trail Creek Watershed Restoration Action Plan (WRAP), this culvert will be replaced with a full bridge structure, which will incorporate natural streambed configuration, floodplain access, and virtually no impact from road traffic or artificial structures to stream function. Combined, 25.4 miles of high-elevation steelhead, bull trout, redband trout, and Chinook salmon habitat will be opened up by this project. The NFJDWC is partnering with the Wallowa Whitman National Forest, who is providing matching funds for this project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This is a straight-forward project correcting an undersized and failing culvert.
- If the culvert fails a significant amount of sediment will be flushed instream and into the North Fork John Day River.
- This is the first barrier upstream of the confluence with the North Fork John Day River.
- Timing is critical - secured federal match funding for implementation is available through 2020.
- The project opens 25 miles of habitat for steelhead, bull trout, redband trout, and Chinook salmon .
- The application includes a thorough discussion on alternatives and the rationale for the selected option.
- Comprehensive designs are included in the application.
- The project is identified as a high priority in the new Trail Creek Watershed Restoration Action Plan (WRAP).
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies Trail Creek watershed as a high priority location for restoration with the associated restoration component ranked as a highest priority action.

Concerns

- There are higher priority culverts to address higher in the watershed.
- The culvert is only a barrier during high flows.

- Culvert replacement appears to be more a priority for highway transport rather than fish passage.

Concluding Analysis

This straight-forward project will open up miles of critical cold-water habitat for listed steelhead, Chinook and Bull trout, which is especially important with the change in climate regimes. The USFS partners have a proven track record of successfully implementing projects. They have a working relationship with the North Fork John Day Watershed Council and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$273,943

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$273,943

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6008-16410

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Top Ranch Integrated Resource Management

Applicant: Monument SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$144,812

Total Cost: \$208,520

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Top Ranch is located in northwest Grant County, Oregon approximately 7 miles north of the town of Monument. It is situated within the Fern Creek and Indian Creek watersheds, both of which are tributaries of Big Wall Creek. Big Wall Creek is a major tributary of the North Fork John Day River that provides critical spawning and rearing habitat for ESA listed (Threatened) Middle-Columbia River steelhead. Western portions of Top Ranch are overstocked with timber species, which negatively affects forest health, reduces water availability, and increases the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Western juniper is encroaching across other portions of the ranch negatively impacting the herbaceous understory and water quality/quantity. Fern Creek runs through Top Ranch and currently lacks any exclusion from livestock. The current manager of Top Ranch has implemented many integrated resource improvements over the last 5 years but wishes to accelerate the level of restoration across the ranch. This project will implement 194 acres of juniper cutting, install 1.5 miles of riparian fencing on both sides of Fern Creek (15,584 feet), install a 6,242-foot cross fence, and develop 3 upland water sources (i.e., springs). This will complement 437 acres of forest stand improvements that Top Ranch is conducting as match funding. Partners for the project include Top Ranch, Monument SWCD, and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The land manager has a holistic vision, an enthusiastic approach, and a long-term commitment to restoration.
- The application is well-written and clear.
- The project has multiple ecological benefits, including:
 - Wildlife benefiting from a varied landscape of diverse vegetation, cover and open space, and upland water sources in an arid ecosystem.
 - Increased resiliency across the landscape, and improved likelihood to withstand the impacts of wildfire
 - Removing livestock access to Fern Creek improves water quality.
- The project builds on and complements prior restoration done by the ranch manager on the property.
- The forest thinning component will follow ODF's thinning prescription.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies Wall Creek watershed as a medium priority location for restoration with the associated restoration components ranked as medium, high and unranked actions.

Concerns

- The photos in the application did not clearly depict the problem to be addressed: the “pre-commercial thin” forest photos appeared to show monoculture stands and the “overstocked” forest photos appeared to be healthy forest stands.
- It was unclear whether the revenues generated from commercial thinning were factored in to the unit cost.

Concluding Analysis

Even with a well-written application, the site visit was necessary to understand the ecological benefit that will result from this landscape-scale project. The property is located in a wildfire prone area and the ranch manager has and continues to do projects to help the land become resilient enough to survive and in some cases benefit from the natural fire regime. This is the first time this absentee landowner has participated in an OWEB application to accelerate the improving restoration trajectory.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$144,812

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$144,812

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6009-16412

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lick Creek Restoration

Applicant: North Fork John Day WC

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$19,710

Total Cost: \$35,071

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) This restoration proposal is located along Lick Creek, a tributary to the Middle Fork John Day River (HUC # 17070203) in Northern Grant County. Lick Creek, located in the Big Creek subwatershed (HUC # 1707020303), is a perennial stream that provides 2.7 miles of spawning and rearing steelhead habitat and historically provided the majority of livestock water on the Burnette Family Ranches. 2) The landowners have been actively working to fence off Lick Creek and provide alternative upland water sources for livestock, to both manage grazing more effectively and preserve water quality. This project builds on those efforts by fencing riparian areas on upper Lick Creek and developing springs to provide upland water sources for livestock. 3) This project will build 5,174 ft of riparian fence along upper Lick Creek, and develop 4 springs with troughs for upland livestock watering. 4) Partners for this proposed project are The Burnettes, Ritter Land Management Team (RLMT), North Fork John Day Watershed Council (NFJDWC), and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The resubmitted application addresses concerns from the prior evaluation and is much improved, providing more detail in the narrative, budget and maps.
- The project complements previous restoration actions to protect over 2.7 miles of Lick Creek, a noted steelhead stream.
- The landowner has successfully completed restoration work in the past and continues to improve the health of his lands for both livestock and wildlife.
- A grazing management strategy is included with the application.

Concerns

- The county road culvert for Lick Creek, near the confluence with the Middle Fork John Day River, could be a fish passage barrier and needs replacing.

Concluding Analysis

The cost benefit on this project was compelling. For a minimal request, this project will provide improved

water quality and riparian vegetation. The landowner has a good reputation for successfully completing restoration projects and is enthusiastic about improving the health of the landscape. A local livestock producer, this well-respected landowner can help others to see the benefits of restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$19,710

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$19,710

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6010-16336

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Wind Creek Restoration Assessment

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$63,669

Total Cost: \$292,282

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Wind Creek Watershed is a tributary of the South Fork John Day River, located just downstream of the Izee Falls. There are 32 stream miles in the Wind Creek Watershed, which includes 25 miles of critical Mid-Columbia Steelhead habitat stream. The South Fork John Day Watershed Council (SFJDWC) was approached by the Rockpile Ranch to assist in creating a restoration plan for their portion of Wind Creek. In the interest of the South Fork Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP), and whole watershed restoration efforts, the SFJDWC reached out to the Ochoco National Forest (ONF), and the Prineville BLM to gauge interest in prioritizing restoration efforts in the Wind Creek Watershed, beginning with a detailed assessment. The ONF is completing data collection for their Sunflower Allotment Management Plan (AMP). Which is used to facilitate management of the range resource on National Forest System Lands. The Sunflower AMP encompasses the Sunflower and Wind Creek Watersheds. The ONF expressed interest in additional assessment of current condition and assistance in prioritization of restoration actions in Wind Creek, stating that they did have some data gaps in Congleton Creek and regarding passage barriers. The Prineville BLM had assessed site potential of Frazier Creek, a tributary of Wind Creek, in 2001, prior to the Corner Creek Fire, and are unsure of the site potential today. The ONF also has proposed Juniper removal areas as a part of their Sunflower AMP. They do not have the staff or funding to complete the cultural surveys needed to remove the Juniper. We are requesting support from OWEB to contract a restoration assessment for 15 miles of critical habitat in the Wind Creek watershed to assess current condition and produce a prioritized restoration plan for aquatic and upland habitat, to advise the South Fork John Day CRMP efforts. We are also requesting support for contracted cultural surveys for 500 acres of Juniper Removal.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will result in a prioritized list of restoration actions, covering an entire watershed and incorporating private and public lands.
- The technical assistance proposal represents a new opportunity as the current landowner has not previously collaborated on restoration projects.
- Wind Creek provides 15 miles of critical intact steelhead habitat.
- The project builds on and supports the momentum created from the reinvigorated Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP) team covering the South Fork John Day River Basin.

- Partner commitment to the project is strong, indicating a high likelihood of success.
- The technical assistance effort is well-timed, with federal partners already in the planning stage for restoration in the headwaters.
- The contractor has experience with this type of stream assessment. The deliverables received from prior projects are comprehensive and useful in restoration planning.
- Wind Creek ranks as a high-priority area for restoration in the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan.

Concerns

- The application does not include any information relating to a dam breach, which was noted in the \$4,500 line item related to the HEC-RAS analysis.
- The majority of the match is from USFS for prior assessment on adjacent public lands in the headwaters.

Concluding Analysis

This proposal is a direct result of outreach to landowners and federal partners through the Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP) effort in the South Fork John Day Watershed. This landowner has not previously partnered on restoration; however, the property is in excellent condition from good management of the uplands. Assisting the BLM by funding the cultural resources for ½ the juniper cut will also result in stronger partner relationships and accelerate restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$58,719

Review Team Conditions

Fund with Conditions – reduced budget line items of HEC-RAS analysis and adjust indirect accordingly.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$58,719

Staff Conditions

Fund with Conditions – reduced budget line items of HEC-RAS and adjust indirect cost accordingly.

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6011-16374

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Tex Creek Riparian Design

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$74,800

Total Cost: \$93,852

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed project is on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife property on Tex Creek, a tributary of Murderers Creek. This project is a result of the South Fork John Day Passage Barrier Inventory, performed by retired ODFW District Fish Biologist Jeff Neal, and funded by OWEB, grant # 216-6031. The inventory identified 31 full or partial barriers in the Murderers Creek Watershed. Murderers Creek is the largest tributary of the South Fork John Day with 66.5 miles of Steelhead Critical Habitat flowing from east to west. It contains 14 tributaries designated as Steelhead Critical Habitat. The tributary of focus for this proposal is Tex Creek. The passage barrier inventory identified a dry channel at the mouth of Tex Creek which occurs only between July 1 and the return of substantial fall rains each year. 1,850 feet of dry channel results. This eliminates all rearing throughout the site and creates a barrier for juvenile steelhead seeking thermal refuge or migrating down to Murderers Cr. This section lost all riparian vegetation in the past but is now fenced and recovering. Active channel width is 13.5 ft. The channel has no large wood and cannot retain enough fine sediment to seal. 4.12 miles of upstream habitat gain if corrected. Jeff Neal recommended creating sediment retention structures within the existing channel. He ranked this passage barrier 3rd highest based on the relative benefit to the fish population and site specific considerations. This portion of Murderers Creek Critical Habitat has also been fenced under OWEB Grant #216-6057. We are requesting support from OWEB to perform detailed design assessment which will identify actions that will increase sediments, improve floodplain connectivity, maintain connected perennial flow, disperse hydrologic energy, and increase the large wood component in Tex Creek.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project proposal is well written and has clear goals and objectives.
- The project is a result of an OWEB funded passage barrier inventory – this site ranked as a high priority project for steelhead recovery.
- The project builds on other restoration in area, such as riparian exclusion fencing.
- Restoring access to over 4 miles of habitat and enabling beavers to expand upstream make this a great opportunity.
- Developing methods to improve connectivity on subsurface flows will be beneficial and replicable in other areas faced with similar limiting factors.

- Restoration in Tex Creek is identified as a high priority location and action in the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan.

Concerns

- The application did not reference historic data available for this watershed.
- Large wood is recommended, but could cause flow to go subsurface.

Concluding Analysis

This technical assistance proposal results from a fish passage barrier inventory that identified and ranked locations for restoration to improve steelhead habitat. The analysis and design deliverables will result in restoration projects at the site and the information gleaned will be useful in other locations with similar subsurface flow issues. ODFW is a strong supporter of the project and will be an integral partner in both design and resulting restoration projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,800

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$74,800

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6012-16397

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: South Fork Cooperative Data Collection

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$44,533

Total Cost: \$96,428

Project Abstract *(from application)*

South Fork John Day Watershed Council (SFJDWC) is requesting \$44,532 to support community engagement, field data collection, and data analysis for Malheur National Forest's Bark project area and adjacent Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area (PWSWA) in the lower South Fork John Day watershed. Data collection and outreach activities proposed in this application are part of a larger initiative by partners of the South Fork John Day Collaborative to perform landscape-scale action planning and implementation across ownership boundaries in Grant County, Oregon. SFJDWC, with guidance from Malheur National Forest and PWSWA managers, will use OWEB funds to gather vital stream and groundwater-dependent ecosystem data that both agencies are unable to collect with small staffing. SFJDWC will also use OWEB dollars to perform community outreach. Outreach activities will recruit greater project buy-in by ensuring an array of groups have a voice throughout the pre-planning process. Assistance with fieldwork and data processing will relieve Forest Service & ODFW staff, expedite NEPA analysis for Bark, and ensure that South Fork John Day Collaborative partners have ample data to perform landscape scale and cross-ownership restoration planning. Project partners are PWSWA, Malheur & Ochoco National Forests, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Natural Resources Conservation Service, private landowners, permittees, Dayville Grazing Association, Cummins Ditch Association & SFJDWC. Note: National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) refers to the United States' environmental law that requires the Forest Service to identify all potential environmental effects of proposed actions.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Acquiring data on stream temperature, stream class and any noted disturbance or barriers will be valuable.
- Obtaining data on water chemistry will be useful in restoration and fish and wildlife management, since water chemistry appears to be a unique factor in this basin.
- The proposed methodology is technically sound and will incorporate ODFW and USFS data collection protocols.
- There is a need for baseline data within this watershed.
- The project appears to be ready to implement and has a high likelihood of success.
- An effective outreach plan is included in the application.

- The project area has an overall medium-high ranking in the Mid-Columbia Recovery Plan – Deer Creek is ranked moderate; the majority of the project footprint is on Murderer’s Creek and tributaries and it is ranked as high protection and restoration benefit areas for steelhead.

Concerns

- The meaning of the word BARK is unclear. The application would have been easier to read with an initial explanation.
- The budget may be inadequate for the amount of work described.
- It is unclear if the work would be contracted out, if the council would hire additional staff, or if the council currently has the capacity to get work done.

Concluding Analysis

This proposal is the result of significant outreach by the applicant through the reinvigorated Coordinated Resource Management Planning team (CRMP) in the South Fork John Day River Basin. Resulting information from this project will help facilitate landscape-scale restoration across federal, state and private land boundaries – something just beginning to be done in this watershed and resulting in significant impacts to the environment and restoration economy. There has been significant research done in the South Fork John Day Watershed by ODFW and universities. Observations by both entities have noted the seemingly unique water chemistry in this watershed, but baseline data is needed before further analysis can be made.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$44,533

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$44,533

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6013-16370

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Lower John Day RCPP
Stakeholder Engagement

Applicant: Gilliam SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Gilliam

OWEB Request: \$46,734

Total Cost: \$63,849

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed Lower John Day Integrated Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) area spans over 518,000 acres in north-central Oregon and drains into the Lower John Day River. This area includes the Hay Creek/Scott Canyon, Ferry Canyon, Thirtymile, and Butte Creek Watersheds. Floodplains, riparian areas, and upland conditions in the RCPP area have been altered by historic farming practices, livestock grazing, and transportation corridors. The most influential effort to address these resource concerns has been with the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) through which program uncertainty has the potential to convert over 45,300 acres of grassland to dryland agriculture production over the next 10 years. This conversion could have devastating consequences for the approximately 210 miles of the RCPP area has been identified as critical habitat for ESA listed Steelhead. To address these issues a NRCS RCPP proposal is being drafted for the project boundary as a landscape-scale restoration planning effort. To address these needs, our partnership plans to: 1.) Facilitate regular meetings with stakeholders to discuss their resource concerns and potential conservation options throughout the process. 2.) We will visit each participating stakeholder's property and provide them with conservation alternatives 3.) Lastly, create an action plan, including relevant maps, findings, and potential strategies and projects. The Gilliam – East John Day Watershed Council will partner with the Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District, the NRCS, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Fresh Water Trust, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and multiple participating landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal complements a NRCS RCPP project.
- The project prioritizes landowners owning property containing steelhead habitat.
- The application included a detailed plan for outreach with initial group meetings, following up with individual personalized visits.
- The proactive approach offers alternatives to address the possibility of 43,500 acres coming out of the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).
- The project footprint includes over 140 landowners – many are landowners not typically involved with conservation or restoration and that live outside the county.
- The proposal adopts a ridgetop-to-ridgetop approach and will result in a comprehensive action plan.

- The project has extensive partnerships with the right people involved.
- The project incorporates a NRCS CIS area, an ODA Focus Area, a Water Resources Place Based Planning area, and portions of an OWEB-funded Strategic Action Plan geography.
- Thirtymile is a high-priority area noted in the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan.

Concerns

- A minor concern is that the budget is lean on materials and supplies for the amount of outreach proposed.
- The application would have been stronger had it listed various NRCS practices offered as alternatives to CRP.
- The application does not address the need to connect farmers to available no-till equipment.
- The project does not include direct mailing to landowners, which is particularly important for the 33 landowners that have over 1 mile of stream on their property.

Concluding Analysis

Conservation Reserve Program acres coming out of contract is a serious concern in Eastern Oregon that could negatively impact soil health and water quality. This pro-active proposal will engage both those farming the landscape as well as absentee owners in conversations that offer alternatives and solutions to keep the land healthy.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 1

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$46,734

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$46,734

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6014-16391

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Building a community vision for the north bank of the Umatilla River

Applicant: Blue Mountain Land Trust

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: \$17,081

Total Cost: \$36,681

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Blue Mountain Land Trust and the City of Pendleton will conduct a series of public meetings to develop a vision for the restoration of vacant land along the floodplain of the Umatilla River within the city. This represents a unique opportunity to protect and restore wildlife habitat and riparian function in an urban area. Additional stakeholders include the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council, the Pendleton Downtown Association, the Pendleton Bird Club, and landowners within and along the riverfront area.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This reach of the Umatilla River would benefit from restoration and protection along the north bank floodplain.
- The amount of landowners proposed for involvement seems manageable. Besides the City of Pendleton, there are only 4-6 landowners along this reach.
- Protecting floodplains and providing fish and wildlife habitat, even in urban areas, provides ecological benefits.
- The Land Trust Alliance is making a significant contribution to help offset the cost of facilitation.

Concerns

- Visioning outcomes are vague in the application.
- The application lacks a clear plan on how riverside landowners or the general public would be contacted or engaged.
- The application was not clear on the local watershed council's role or what their match would provide.
- There is uncertainty whether the resulting vision will provide ecological benefit. The final plan might focus on bike paths, parks, mitigating the impacts of the transient population, or similar issues,-- which are not appropriate uses of OWEB funding.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan ranks this section of the Umatilla River as a very low priority area for restoration.

Concluding Analysis

Restoration and protection along this reach of the Umatilla River is a worthy goal, but OWEB funding is premature at this point of project development. An OWEB stakeholder engagement grant may be more appropriate following the initial visioning process once next steps for the riverfront are clearly delineated by the city and the public if the vision is for ecological restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A



Oregon

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, OWEB Grant Program Manager
Ivan Gall, Oregon Water Resources Department Field Services Division
Administrator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item G – Overview of legal options available for protecting water
instream
October 16-17, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

The board discussion on Open Solicitation grants at the April, 2018 board meeting included questions about ecological benefits of water conservation projects. While many such projects benefit water quality by reducing erosion from irrigation infrastructure and practices, the board sought greater clarity about options available to protect water instream and directed the Open Solicitation Subcommittee to discuss the issue and report back to the board.

II. Background

The Open Solicitation Subcommittee at its June meeting invited Ivan Gall, Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) Field Services Division Administrator, to discuss various options available for protecting water instream. The options include the Allocation of Conserved Water program, water use reporting, and in-stream leases and transfers. The subcommittee recommended inviting Mr. Gall to a future board meeting for further discussion.

III. Presentation Topics

The following topics will be presented to the board for discussion:

1. Leasing and the Allocation of Conserved Water statute – describe the limitations of these programs to help the board better understand when they are viable options for landowners.
2. Measurement – describe OWRD's measurement requirements and how a potential OWEB grant requirement to report flow measurement could be consistent with OWRD's reporting program.
3. Forbearance – describe the level of assurance that OWEB can expect that water will remain in-stream as a result of forbearance agreements with or without leasing options.

4. Permanent instream transfers – an alternative to the above options, permanent instream transfers allow landowners to permanently transfer water rights instream.

IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

October 16-17, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting Strategic Plan Update H-1 – Tracking and Staff Capacity

This report provides a general update about the agency's strategic plan.

Background

In June, 2018, the board approved a new strategic plan. At this and upcoming meetings, staff will provide both general updates on plan progress, and more detailed updates as needed on specific priority areas.

Strategic Plan Progress Tracking

Staff have developed a template to track quarterly progress on strategic plan priorities (Attachment A). Staff will provide an overview of the template and ask for board feedback on structure and content at the October board meeting.

Staff Capacity to Implement the Strategic Plan

At the June board meeting, members expressed an interest in better understanding how staff will manage workload associated with the new strategic plan implementation. While some components of the strategic plan are new, others are a shift in direction that does not necessarily increase staff workload. Below are examples of both, and how staff propose to address either shifts or increases in workload. Places where increased resources are needed (staff, grants, contracting dollars) are indicated by a caret symbol: ^. Across the priorities, where staff are engaged in implementing strategies, many of the strategies are staged to match staff workload capacity.

Priority 1 – Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds

- OWEB is providing content to the Oregon Lottery as they implement the public advertising campaign that kicked off in late September. OWEB has a staff team guiding the process. All technical story, billboard, and advertising materials are developed by Lottery and their contractors (see agenda item P-1 for more information). OWEB will help make this content available locally.
- In addition, the Oregon Conservation Partnership has a strong focus on this work, and OWEB staff continue to provide grant and story information to the partnership as they work with local grantees to develop and market stories

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

- ^ OWEB will hire a contractor to assist with implementation of this priority, particularly around the training needed for staff and board. In addition, OWEB will reach out to partners who have already completed diversity, equity, and inclusion work to learn from their experiences.
- A staff team has been developed and both staff and board will be participating in trainings to get up to speed on this topic over the coming years.

Priority 3 – Community capacity and strategic partnerships to achieve healthy watersheds

- ^ In June, the board approved a grant that will bring additional expertise to work on capacity-related components of this priority. Additional contracting funds have been requested through a policy option package in the 2019-21 biennium to assist with capacity monitoring efforts.

- Staff from both the capacity and monitoring programs will help to lead this effort. This work is built into their work plans for the coming years.
- ^ OWEB is requesting increased staffing in the 2019 legislative session for the Focused Investment Partnership Program.

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

- This is a primary responsibility of the executive director, in coordination with the board.
- ^ To assist with this effort, OWEB brought an Oregon fellow on staff over the summer to help map the funding landscape in Oregon. Staff will be reviewing his extensive report to begin identifying next steps for this priority.
- ^ In addition, for the ‘new and creative funding sources’ strategy, in June the board provided a grant to bring additional expertise to help the Governor’s office and natural resource agencies to work on ‘Preparing a Secure, Safe and Resilient Water Future for All Oregonian’s’, which is a 100-year investment program for water infrastructure. Staff participate as a part of the interagency team for this effort (see agenda item I for additional information).

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

- ^ The board’s approval of the new ‘stakeholder engagement’ grant will provide funding directly to grantees to improve connections with working lands owners related to conservation work.
- ^ OWEB is proposing a total of \$10 million in Policy Option Package requests for the 2019-21 biennium to begin implementation of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. This request includes additional staff to implement the program.
- Partners from the agriculture and conservation communities will be working with OWEB to support implementation of this priority.

Priority 6 – Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

- ^ OWEB received two additional staff positions focused on conservation outcomes in the 2017 legislative session and will be asking for those positions again through a policy option package in the 2019 legislative session. Much of the work under this priority has been initiated and is built in as a part of staff workload, with overall implementation staged to match staff capacity.
- In addition, some of the strategies to address this priority will be reflected in how OWEB prioritizes grants for local partners, such as the ‘telling the restoration story’ targeted grant offering (see agenda item P-5 for more information).

Priority 7 – Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon’s watersheds

- ^ As noted above, OWEB is requesting increased staffing in the 2019 legislative session for the Focused Investment Partnership Program.
- Largely, however, this is a cross-cutting priority that will involve board direction to staff for grant investments, and work across all agency program areas.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, at meta.loftsgaarden@oregon.gov; or 503-986-0180.

Attachments

- A. Strategic Plan Tracking Spreadsheet

OWEB Strategic Plan Progress
QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE – July-October 2018

| Priority 1 - Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| Strategies | 1. Develop and implement broad awareness campaigns and highlight personal stories to tell the economic, restoration, and community successes of watershed investments | <u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinated with Oregon Lottery on a state-wide watershed awareness campaign featuring the people, places, and projects that demonstrate Oregon’s Conservation ethic. The campaign will launch in fall 2018, and OWEB partners will be able to use materials throughout 2019 and beyond. The campaign includes one TV commercial, two billboards along the I-5 corridor, online videos, and web content: https://www.oregonlottery.org/watersheds - Provided Oregon Lottery campaign materials to partners and grantees to promote watershed awareness in their communities. | <u>So That: (outputs)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local partners are trained and have access to media and tools. - Local conservation organizations have meaningful connection to local media. - Each region has access to public engagement strategies that reach non-traditional audiences. - Oregon Lottery media campaigns have new stories every year of watershed work and progress. | <u>To Make This Difference: (outcomes)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non-traditional partners are involved and engaged in strategic watershed approaches. - Successes are celebrated at the local and state level through use of appropriate tools. - More Oregonians: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o are aware of the impacts of their investment in their watershed; o understand why healthy watersheds matter to their family and community; o understand their role in keeping their watershed healthy. | <u>Near-term measure:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholder and regional diversity featured in Oregon Lottery campaign materials. <u>Potential impact measure:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in public conversation about watersheds and people’s role in keeping them healthy. - Increase recognition of landowner connection to healthy watersheds. - Broader representation/greater variation of populations represented in the Oregon watershed stories. |
| | 2. Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches | | | | |
| Priority 2 - Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians | | | | | |
| Strategies | 1. Listen, learn and gather Information about diverse populations | <u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Convened a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) cross-sectional team that meets monthly; developed draft team charter with purpose and objectives. - Provided unconscious bias training to staff at the quarterly all-staff meeting in early September 2018. - Sent 8 staff to in-depth DEI trainings. - Initiated internal conversations about how to gather demographic information from grantees. - Met with the Natural Resource Conservation Service and The Nature Conservancy to learn about available resources and explore ways to partner on DEI work. - “First Foods” presentation at June 2018 OWEB Board Meeting to increase cultural awareness. | <u>So That: (outputs)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OWEB board and staff have been trained in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). - OWEB has DEI capacity. - OWEB grantees and partners have access to DEI tools and resources. - DEI are incorporated into OWEB grant programs, as appropriate. - OWEB staff and board develop awareness of how social, economic, and cultural differences impact individuals, organizations and business practices. - OWEB staff and board share a common understanding of OWEB’s unique relationship with tribes. - Board and staff regularly engage with underrepresented partnerships and stakeholder groups to support DEI work. | <u>To Make This Difference: (outcomes)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New and varied populations are engaged in watershed restoration - Grantees and partners actively use DEI tools and resources to recruit a greater diversity of staff, board members and volunteers. - Increased engagement of under-represented communities in OWEB grant programs and programs of our stakeholders. - OWEB, state agencies, and other funders consider opportunities to fund natural resource projects with a DEI lens. | <u>Near-term measure:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trainings and professional development opportunities in which the staff and board participate. <u>Potential impact measure:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased awareness by grantees of gaps in community representation. - Increased representation of Grantees and partners from diverse communities on boards, staff, and as volunteers. - Increased funding provided to culturally diverse stakeholders and populations. |
| | 2. Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table | | | | |
| | 3. Develop funding strategies with a lens toward diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) | | | | |

Priority 3 - Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|---|--|--|---|
| Strategies | 1. Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB's past capacity funding | <u>We Do This: (actions)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initiated scoping to develop an evaluation framework for past council and SWCD capacity investments; evaluation will be informed by insights from the FIP Partnership Learning Project. | <u>So That: (outputs)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data exists to better understand the impacts of OWEB's capacity investments - Help exists for local groups to define their restoration 'community' for purposes of partnership/community capacity investments. - A suite of alternative options exists to invest in capacity to support conservation outcomes. - New mechanisms are available for watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts to report on outcomes of capacity funding. - A set of streamlined cross-agency processes exist to more effectively implement restoration projects. - Local capacity strengths and gaps are identified to address and implement large-scale conservation solutions. | <u>To Make This Difference: (outcomes)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partners access best community capacity and strategic practices and approaches. - OWEB can clearly tell the story of the value of capacity funds. - Funders are aware of the importance of funding capacity. - Lessons learned from past capacity investments inform funding decisions. - Restoration projects involving multiple agencies are implemented more efficiently and effectively - State-federal agencies increase participation in strategic partnerships. | <u>Near-term measure:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actions taken to advance strategy <u>Potential impact measure:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in indicators of capacity for entities. - Increased restoration project effectiveness from cross-agency efforts. - Increase in funding for capacity by funders other than OWEB. |
| | 2. Champion best approaches to build organizational, community, and partnership capacity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Currently evaluating recommendations from Phases 1 and 2 of FIP Partnership Learning Project. - Grant initiated with Portland State University/Willamette Partnership to explore collaborative capacity. | | | |
| | 3. Accelerate state/federal agency participation in partnerships | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In discussions w/ Oregon Department of Environmental Quality about potential investment of Clean Water State Revolving Fund resources to address failing septic systems with Department of Environmental Quality. - Coordinating with NRCS to determine alignment between USDA's NWQI Drinking Water Protection pilot program with OWEB and other state-agency programs. - Met with Oregon Department of Forestry to discuss interagency partnerships during annual coordination meeting. - Facilitation of the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership program with NRCS, DEQ, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Department of Agriculture, including annual meeting of agency directors. - Presentation of OWEB Strategic Plan to four of six Regional Review Teams, including dialogue around Priority 3 and OWEB's interest in supporting interagency collaboration where appropriate. | | | |

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

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|-------------------|---|---|---|--|--|
| Strategies | 1. Increase coordination of public restoration investments and develop funding vision | <u>We Do This: (actions)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An initial assessment was completed to map the landscape of natural resource funding around the state to identify areas of potential alignment. - Met with agency directors to begin discussing opportunities for a coordinated mitigation approach for the state. | <u>So That: (outputs)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OWEB has a clear understanding of its role in coordinating funding. - OWEB and other state and federal agencies have developed a system for formal communication and coordination around grants and other investments. - OWEB and partners have a coordinated outreach strategy for increasing watershed investments by state agencies, foundations, and corporations. - Foundations and corporations are informed about the important restoration work occurring in Oregon and understand the additional community benefits of restoration projects. - Foundations and corporations know OWEB, how the agency's investments work, and how they | <u>To Make This Difference: (outcomes)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agencies have a shared vision about how to invest strategically in restoration. - Oregon has a comprehensive analysis of the state's natural and built infrastructure to direct future investments. - Foundations and corporations are partners in watershed funding efforts. - Foundations and corporations increase their investment in restoration. - Natural resources companies are implementing watershed health work that is also environmentally sustainable. | <u>Near-term measure:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in the use of new and diverse funding sources by grantees. <u>Potential impact measure:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in grantees cash match amount and diversity of cash match in projects. - Increase in new and diverse funding sources. - Increase in creative funding mechanisms and strategies. - Increased high-quality conservation and restoration projects are funded without OWEB investment. - Increased funding for bold and innovative, non-traditional investments. |
| | 2. Align common investment areas with private foundations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An initial assessment was completed to map the landscape of natural resource funding around the state to identify areas of potential alignment. | | | |
| | 3. Explore creative funding opportunities and partnerships with the private sector | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An initial assessment was completed to map the landscape of natural resource funding around the state to identify areas of potential alignment. | | | |
| | 4. Partner to design strategies for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participated in the Natural and Working Lands Work Group convened by the Governor's Carbon Policy Office. - Began rollout to multiple stakeholders of Oregon's 100-year Water Infrastructure Vision: "Preparing for a Safe, Secure and Resilient Water Future for all Oregonians." The vision integrates both built and water infrastructure as a coordinated policy approach towards long-term planning and investment. | | | |

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|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> can partner. Foundations and corporations understand the importance of investing in healthy watersheds Foundations and corporations consider restoration investments in their investment portfolios. Oregon companies that depend on healthy watersheds are aware of the opportunity to invest in watershed health. | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|

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

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
| Strategies | 1. Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program | <u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Released proposed rules for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program for public comment, including statement of need and fiscal impact. Solicited Letters of Interest from eligible entities for the OAHP working land conservation covenant and easement program, received 28 letters of interest from 11 organizations around the state. Funding for OAHP is included in OWEB’s agency request budget. | <u>So That: (outputs)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landowner engagement strategies and tools are developed and used by local conservation organizations Strategies and stories are being utilized to reach owners and managers of working lands who are not currently working with local organizations. Local organizations have the technical assistance to address gaps in implementing working land conservation projects. Examples of successful working lands conservation projects are available for local organizations to use. New partners are engaged with owners and operators of working lands to increase conservation. The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission has administrative rules and stable funding for the OAHP to protect working lands. Local capacity exists to implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. | <u>To Make This Difference: (outcomes)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generations of landowners continue to integrate conservation on their working lands while maintaining economic sustainability. Fully functioning working landscapes remain resilient into the future. Across the state, local partners have the resources necessary to better facilitate why and where restoration opportunities exist on working lands. Sustained vitality of Oregon’s natural resources industries. | <u>Near-term measure:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of landowners identified within Strategic Implementation Areas that receive technical assistance. <u>Potential impact measure:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased conservation awareness amongst owners and managers of working lands. A better understanding of conservation participation, barriers and incentives for working lands owners. Expanded relationships with agriculture and forestry associations. Increased engagement of owners and managers of working lands conservation projects. Increased working lands conservation projects on farm, ranch, and forest lands. Expanded working lands partnerships improve habitat and water quality. Expanded funding opportunities exist for working lands conservation. |
| | 2. Strengthen engagement with a broad base of working landowners | | | | |
| | 3. Enhance the work of partners to increase working lands projects on farm, ranch and forestlands | | | | |
| | 4. Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched Strategic Implementation Area technical assistance grant program to engage private landowners in streamside management for water quality; five grant awards disbursed to soil and water conservation districts to work with private landowners in priority watersheds identified by ODA’s agricultural water quality program. | | | |
| | 5. Develop engagement strategies for owners and managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations | | | | |

Priority 6 - Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| | 1. Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts | <u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Telling the Restoration Story” targeted offering opened; currently working with seven partners to develop stories. Continued work with Conservation Effectiveness Partnership to describe the effectiveness of cumulative conservation and restoration actions with local and agency partners, completed a new fact sheet on Prairie Creek and updated Wilson River fact sheet. | <u>So That: (outputs)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional technical resources—such as guidance and tools—are developed and/or made accessible to monitoring practitioners. Priorities are proactively established and clearly articulated to plan for adequate monitoring | <u>To Make This Difference: (outcomes)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results. Limited monitoring resources are focused on appropriate, high-quality, prioritized monitoring being conducted by state agencies, | <u>Near-term measure:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of communication tools developed through staff, grants or partnerships. <u>Potential impact measure:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased public awareness about |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|---|---|--|--|
| Strategies | 2. Invest in monitoring over the long term | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In coordination with Bonneville Environmental Foundation, initiated work to develop a progress tracking report to evaluate outputs and outcomes of Focused Investment Partnerships. - As a follow up to Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program effectiveness monitoring study, working with CREP technicians throughout Oregon to develop a monitoring approach for contract performance tracking. | <p>resources that describe restoration investment outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring practitioners focus efforts on priority monitoring needs. - A network of experts is available to help grantees develop and implement successful monitoring projects. - Information is readily available to wide audiences to incorporate into adaptive management and strategic planning at the local level. - A dedicated process exists for continually improving how restoration outcomes are defined and described. - Strategic monitoring projects receive long-term funding. | <p>local groups, and federal agencies conducting monitoring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local organizations integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning. - Evaluation of impact, not just effort, is practiced broadly. - Impacts on ecological, economic and social factors are considered as a part of successful monitoring efforts. - Partners are using results-based restoration ‘stories’ to share conservation successes and lessons learned. - Monitoring frameworks are developed and shared. - Monitoring results that can be visualized across time and space are available at local, watershed and regional scales. - Limited monitoring resources provide return on investment for priority needs. | <p>the outcomes and effects of watershed restoration and why it matters to Oregonians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased utilization of effective and strategic monitoring practices by grantees and partners - Improved restoration and monitoring actions on the ground to meet local and state needs. - Increase in local organizations that integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning. - Increased engagement and support of restoration and conservation activities. - Increased decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results. - Increased ability to evaluate social change that leads to ecological outcomes. |
| | 3. Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Made refinements to on-line monitoring application resulting from application guidance development process that included focus groups and surveys with OWEB staff, review team members and grantees. - Presented webinar “OWEB On-line Monitoring Application Tutorial” in partnership with Network of Oregon Watershed Councils with 33 participants; posted on OWEB website. - Leading interagency process to develop guidance for Strategic Implementation Area monitoring associated with ODA’s agricultural water quality program in partnership with ODA, DEQ and ODFW. | | | |
| | 4. Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working with Intensively Monitored Watersheds network to plan a regional workshop to share results of research and monitoring. | | | |
| | 5. Define monitoring priorities | | | | |
| | 6. Develop and promote a monitoring framework | | | | |

Priority 7 - Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon’s watersheds

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|--|---|---|---|
| Strategies | 1. Invest in landscape restoration over the long term | <p><u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Launched a new grant solicitation for the Focused Investment Partnerships program and invited new partnerships to apply; completed review team meetings for all eligible applications. - Presentation of OWEB Strategic Plan to four Regional Review Teams, including dialogue around Priority 7 and OWEB’s interest in supporting experimentation where appropriate. | <p><u>So That: (outputs)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OWEB works with partners to share results of landscape scale restoration with broader conservation community. - OWEB and partners have a better understanding of how restoration approaches can be mutually beneficial for working lands and watershed health. - OWEB’s landscape-scale granting involves effective partnerships around the state. | <p><u>To Make This Difference: (outcomes)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multi-phased, high-complexity, and large geographic footprint restoration projects are underway. - OWEB’s investment approaches recognize the dual conservation and economic drivers and benefits of watershed actions, where appropriate. - Diverse, non-traditional projects and activities that contribute to watershed health are now funded that weren’t previously. - Conservation communities value an experimental approach to learning and innovation. - Conservation communities become comfortable with properties and projects that show potential, even if the work is not demonstrated based on demonstrated past performance. - OWEB becomes better able to evaluate risk - OWEB encourages a culture of innovation. | <p><u>Near-term measure:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Percentage of board-identified ecological priority areas that are covered by a Strategic Action Plan. <p><u>Potential impact measure:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased strategic watershed restoration footprint statewide. - Increased money for innovative watershed work from diverse funding sources. - Increased learning from bold and innovative actions so future decisions result in healthy watersheds in Oregon - New players or sectors—such as healthcare providers—engaged to invest in watershed restoration, enhancement and protection. |
| | 2. Develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economies | | | | |
| | 3. Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB’s mission | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of OWEB Strategic Plan to four Regional Review Teams, including dialogue around Priority 7 and OWEB’s interest in supporting experimentation where appropriate. | | | |

October 16-17, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting Strategic Plan Update H-2 – Board Subcommittees

This report provides a general update about the agency's strategic plan.

Background

In June, 2018, the board approved a new strategic plan. At this and upcoming meetings, staff will provide both general updates on plan progress, and more detailed updates as needed on specific priority areas.

Board Subcommittees and Strategic Plan

To ensure staff are on track for strategic plan implementation, priorities will be assigned to one or multiple subcommittees for tracking and more in-depth dialogue about plan implementation. Priorities will be reviewed with subcommittees as listed below. Where priorities are in bold, that subcommittee will provide primary review. Some priorities will have discussions in multiple subcommittees.

Capacity Subcommittee

- ✓ Priority 2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians
- ✓ Priority 3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

Executive Subcommittee

- ✓ Priority 1: Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds
- ✓ Priority 4: Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio
- ✓ Priority 7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds

Open Solicitation Subcommittee

- ✓ Priority 5: The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health (also OAH Commission)
- ✓ Priority 7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds

Monitoring Subcommittee

- ✓ Priority 6: Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness
- ✓ Priority 3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds
- ✓ Priority 7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds

Focused Investment Subcommittee

- ✓ Priority 3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds
- ✓ Priority 7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, at meta.loftsgaarden@oregon.gov; or 503-986-0180.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item I— Oregon’s Secure, Safe and Resilient Water Future
October 16-17, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report briefs the board on an emerging state initiative, supported by the Governor’s Office, to develop and implement a 100-year vision for Oregon’s water future.

II. Background

Oregon is known for its clean and relatively abundant water. However, development, climate change, population dynamics, and lack of ongoing investment in clean water stress the quality of water in our rivers and streams, create significant water scarcity in the summer and fall seasons, and increase the potential for water infrastructure failures and public health impacts.

III. Oregon’s Vision for Secure, Safe and Resilient Water Future

The Governor’s office, with support from agencies including OWEB, Oregon Water Resources Department, and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, has begun scoping of a vision for Oregon’s water future. The intent of this 100-year vision is to address changes in climate and population dynamics in ways that enable Oregon to steward its water resources to ensure clean and abundant water for the state’s people, economy, and environment. Strategic investments will result in resilient natural and built water systems across the state to support safe and healthy communities, vibrant local economies and a healthy environment (Attachment A).

Earlier this year, directors of the state natural resources agencies and the Governor’s Natural Resources Office (GNRO) re-convened Core Team—a deputy-level roundtable previously created in the early years of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds—to further develop the water vision. Core Team also is inventorying known information about Oregon’s water assets and the current condition of natural and built water systems, along with gaps in this information, to help identify the nature and extent of the problem and need. This work will help develop funding strategies for the future.

IV. How OWEB is Involved

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden is working closely with GNRO and other agencies to advance the water vision, including outreach to legislators and a range of interest groups. Deputy Director Renee Davis is a member of Core Team, and serves on the inventory sub-group of the team. Finally, at the June 2018 meeting, the board awarded

funding via the Governor's Priorities line item in the 2017-19 spending plan to help support this work (Attachment B). The water vision specifically connects to Strategy 4.4: Partner to design strategies for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources.

V. Next Steps

Governor Brown has selected Oregon's Vision for a Secure, Safe and Resilient Water Future as a one of her natural resources priorities for the 2019-21 biennium. As the Governor's Office reviews agency request budgets, the Governor's staff will work with agencies to identify necessary and appropriate policy option packages for inclusion in the Governor's budget that will advance this initiative.

In the meantime, outreach and coalition-building will continue, led by GNRO and agency directors, and Core Team will continue work on the inventory of built and natural infrastructure and water assets. Staff will provide periodic updates to the board as progress is made and new developments occur.

VI. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachments

- A. *Preparing a Secure, Safe & Resilient Water Future for All Oregonians* 2-pager
- B. Memo from Jason Miner, Governor's Natural Resources Policy Manager, to the board

Preparing a Secure, Safe & Resilient Water Future for All Oregonians

The need for a 100-year program for generations to come

Premise:

Oregon is known for its clean and relatively abundant water. However, development, climate change, population dynamics and lack of ongoing investment in clean water stress the quality of water in our rivers and streams, create significant water scarcity in the summer and fall seasons, and increase the potential for water infrastructure failures and public health impacts. Oregon's local economies and communities are increasingly vulnerable to drought, floods and fires. These realities place Oregon's quality of life, natural resources and economic future at risk.

Vision:

To address changes in climate and population dynamics, Oregon will steward its water resources to ensure clean and abundant water for our people, our economy and our environment, now and for future generations. Strategic investments and policies will result in resilient natural and built water systems across the state to support safe and healthy communities, vibrant local economies and a healthy environment.

This strategic approach will answer questions, including:

- What is the current state of Oregon's water supply and water quality?
- Considering climate change and population shifts, where are the most vulnerable communities and areas in most need of improved access to clean water?
- How do we ensure that Oregon's water systems (natural and built) are safe, sound and resilient to carry us into the future?

Goals:

- HEALTH: Secure, safe, accessible, and healthy water for current and future generations of Oregonians
- ECONOMY: Provide clean ground and surface water for current and future economic vitality for all Oregonians
- ENVIRONMENT: Ensure native fish and wildlife have access to the cool, clean water they need to thrive
- SAFETY: Strengthen resiliency in the face of natural hazards such as floods and drought

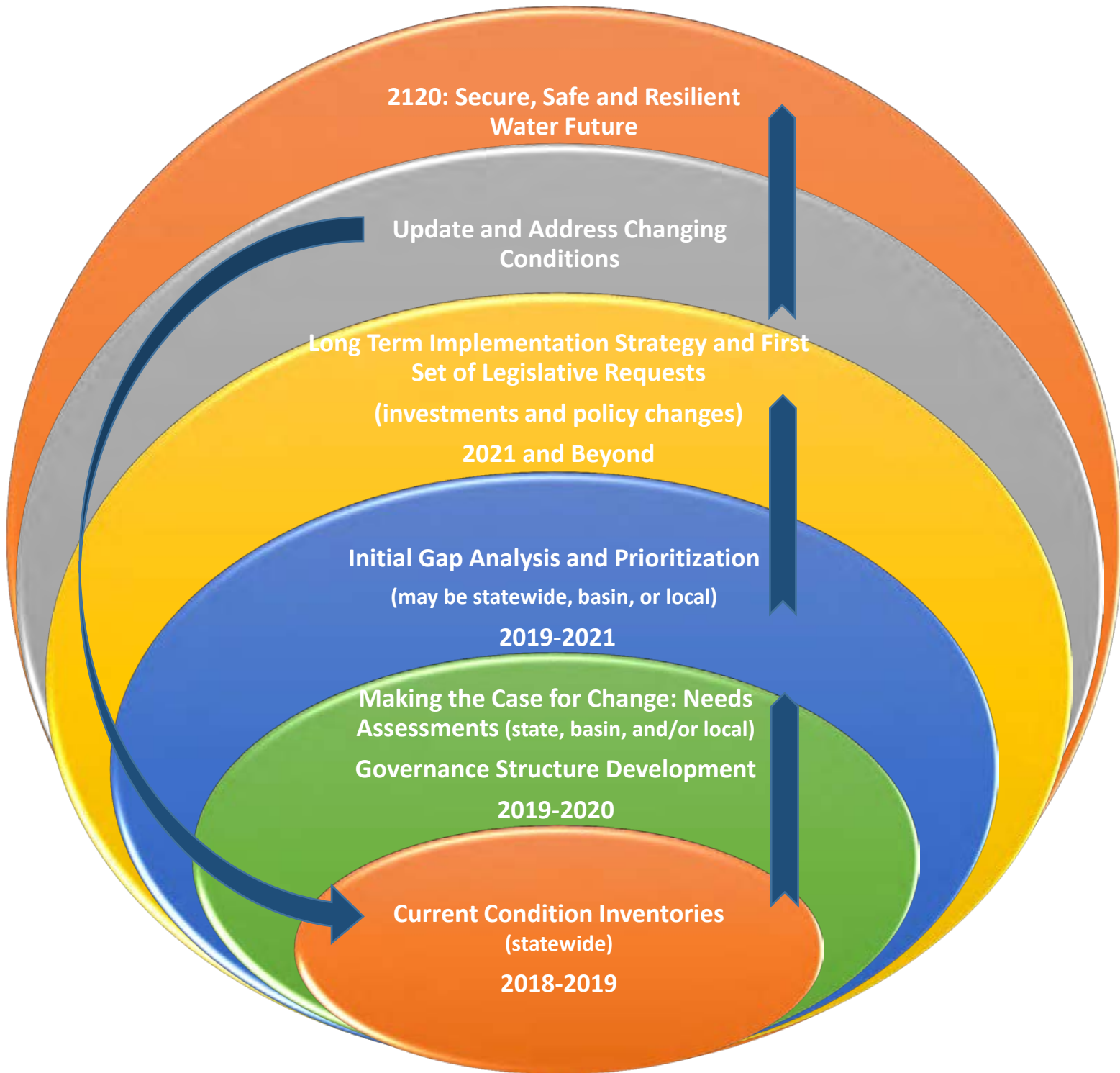
Approach:

To have a lasting impact, we must work in a broad coalition on a multi-year effort to assess the current condition of green and built water systems to help identify the nature and extent of the problem and need. This will help us to develop funding and policy strategies for the future. Our efforts must be broad and comprehensive in scope reaching all sectors, addressing a range of needs and taking into consideration overall watershed health, including but not limited to:

- ✓ Surface and ground water supply for communities and agriculture, and in-stream water for fish and wildlife
- ✓ Water infrastructure safety, resiliency and preparedness
- ✓ Clean water for healthy watersheds that support communities, businesses, agriculture, fish and wildlife
- ✓ Statewide and basin specific information and education on water needs and issue

Preparing a Secure, Safe & Resilient Water Future for All Oregonians:

The need for a 100-year program for generations to come



Kate Brown
Governor



MEMORANDUM

Date: August 13, 2018

To: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board


From: Jason Miner, Natural Resource Policy Manager, Governor Kate Brown's Office

Subject: Board award for the Governor's Priority line item

Governor Brown's Natural Resource Office appreciates that the OWEB Board has approved our request for \$65,450 from the board's Governor's Priority line item in the agency's 2017-2019 spending plan to support the Governor's efforts to ensure a secure and resilient water future for all Oregonians.

Grants made under this award will ultimately support increased on-the-ground restoration work across Oregon. Specifically, the funding will support work that helps us better understand the context for change in water infrastructure, including what has been accomplished in other areas, and helping to better define and frame Oregon's water infrastructure as it relates to community resilience, economy, and health.

These investments will also provide us a better understanding of which public and private entities are working where, and why, and helping develop a shared vision and path forward on this important issue.


Jason Miner
Natural Resources Policy Manager



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 J – Spending Plan Timeline and Strategic Plan
October 16-17, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will discuss the process for building and approving the 2019-21 OWEB Spending Plan and initiate a conversation with the board about the tie between the spending plan and OWEB's 2018 strategic plan.

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). The Oregon Legislature routinely allocates PCSRF funding based on estimated federal grant awards over two years.

At its July 2017 meeting, the board adopted a 2017-2019 Spending Plan totaling \$96.7 million. In June 2018, the Board revised the spending plan to include additional recapture and PCSRF funding (Attachment A), for a total spending plan of \$108.9 million.

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 \$222 million to Oregon for salmon and steelhead recovery efforts. The 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.

III. Strategic Plan Timeline

The 2019-21 spending plan will be approved by the Board in July 2019. In preparation for that approval, the following steps will occur:

- In October 2018, the board will discuss the overall timeline and the connection between the spending plan, Long-Term Investment Strategy and the 2018 Strategic Plan, including an initial review of percent targets from previous board conversations (Attachment C).
- In January 2019, based on initial conversations in October, 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 2019, 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 2019, staff will present the 2019-21 Spending Plan as a slate of final recommendations for the board's approval.
- In July 2020, the board will consider additional funds for the spending plan from PCSRF and recapture, similar to the approval at the June 2018 board meeting.

IV. Connection to Strategic Plan and Long Term Investment Strategy

The board is currently operating under both the Long Term Investment Strategy (approved in 2013, provided as Attachment B) and the 2018 Strategic Plan (summary provided at the front of the board book). At the October board meeting, staff will lead a discussion of how these two documents should guide development of the next spending plan to provide a clear indication of how staff should consider use of these documents to establish overall percentages for Open Solicitation, Focused Investments, Operating Capacity, and Other categories in the plan.

V. Recommendation

This is a discussion item only.

Attachments

- A. Spending Plan
- B. Long Term Investment Strategy
- C. Spending Plan Percentages

OWEB 2017-19 Spending Plan for the October 2018 Board Meeting

| | OWEB SPENDING PLAN | Oct 2018 additions | Spending Plan as of Oct 2018 | TOTAL Board Awards To-Date | Remaining Spending Plan after To-Date Awards | Oct 2018 Proposed Awards | Remaining Spending Plan after Oct 2018 awards |
|----|--|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| 1 | Open Solicitation: | | | | | | |
| 2 | Restoration (includes USFW Coastal Wetlands) | | 33.000 | 17.060 | 15.940 | 7.972 | 7.968 |
| 3 | Technical Assistance | | | | | | |
| 4 | Restoration TA | | 4.000 | 1.844 | 2.156 | 0.792 | 1.364 |
| 5 | CREP TA (includes NRCS & ODF funds) | | 1.435 | 1.435 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 6 | Stakeholder Engagement | | 0.700 | 0.169 | 0.531 | 0.463 | 0.068 |
| 7 | Monitoring grants | | 3.100 | 1.784 | 1.316 | | 1.316 |
| 8 | Land and Water Acquisition | | | | | | |
| 9 | Acquisition (includes USFW Coastal Wetlands) | | 9.900 | 6.630 | 3.270 | | 3.270 |
| 10 | Acquisition Technical Assistance | | 0.600 | 0.150 | 0.450 | | 0.450 |
| 11 | Weed Grants | | 3.000 | 3.000 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 12 | Small Grants | | 3.150 | 3.150 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 13 | Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring | | 1.587 | 0.556 | 1.031 | | 1.031 |
| 14 | TOTAL | 0.000 | 60.472 | 35.778 | 24.694 | 9.227 | 15.467 |
| 15 | % of assumed Total Budget | | 62.44% | | | | |
| 16 | Focused Investments: | | | | | | |
| 17 | Deschutes | | 4.000 | 4.000 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 18 | Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat | | 2.445 | 2.445 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 19 | Harney Basin Wetlands | | 1.970 | 1.970 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 20 | Sage Grouse | | 2.355 | 2.355 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 21 | Ashland Forest All-Lands | | 2.340 | 2.340 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 22 | Upper Grande Ronde | | 2.417 | 2.417 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 23 | Development FIPs | | 1.150 | 0.572 | 0.578 | | 0.578 |
| 24 | FI Effectiveness Monitoring | | 0.750 | 0.750 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 25 | TOTAL | 0.000 | 17.427 | 16.849 | 0.578 | 0.000 | 0.578 |
| 26 | % of assumed Total Budget | | 17.99% | | | | |
| 27 | Operating Capacity: | | | | | | |
| 28 | Capacity grants (WC/SWCD) incl. NRCS+LCWC | | 14.598 | 14.598 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 29 | Statewide org partnership support | 0.050 | 0.500 | 0.450 | 0.050 | 0.050 | 0.000 |
| 30 | Organizational Collaborative Grants | | 0.400 | 0.400 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 31 | TOTAL | 0.050 | 15.498 | 15.448 | 0.050 | 0.050 | 0.000 |
| 32 | % of assumed Total Budget | | 16.00% | | | | |
| 33 | Other: | | | | | | |
| 34 | CREP | | 0.750 | 0.750 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 35 | Governor's Priorities | | 1.000 | 0.941 | 0.059 | 0.060 | -0.001 |
| 36 | Strategic Implementation Areas | | 1.200 | 1.200 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 37 | Strategic Plan Implementation Grants | | 0.500 | 0.500 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 38 | TOTAL | 0.000 | 3.450 | 3.391 | 0.059 | 0.060 | -0.001 |
| 39 | % of assumed Total Budget | | 3.56% | | | | |
| 40 | TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan | 0.050 | 96.847 | 71.466 | 25.381 | 9.337 | 16.044 |
| 41 | OTHER DISTRIBUTED FUNDS IN ADDITION TO SPENDING PLAN DISTRIBUTION | | | | | | |
| 42 | Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - PCSRF | | 10.450 | 10.450 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 43 | Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership | | 0.309 | 0.309 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 44 | Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF | | 0.500 | 0.500 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 45 | PSMFC-IMW | | 0.729 | 0.729 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 46 | PSMFC-Coho Habitat Tools | | 0.166 | 0.166 | 0.000 | | 0.000 |
| 52 | ODOT | | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 47 | TOTAL | 0.000 | 12.154 | 12.154 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 48 | TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Distributed Funds | 0.050 | 109.001 | 83.620 | 25.381 | 9.337 | 16.044 |



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.

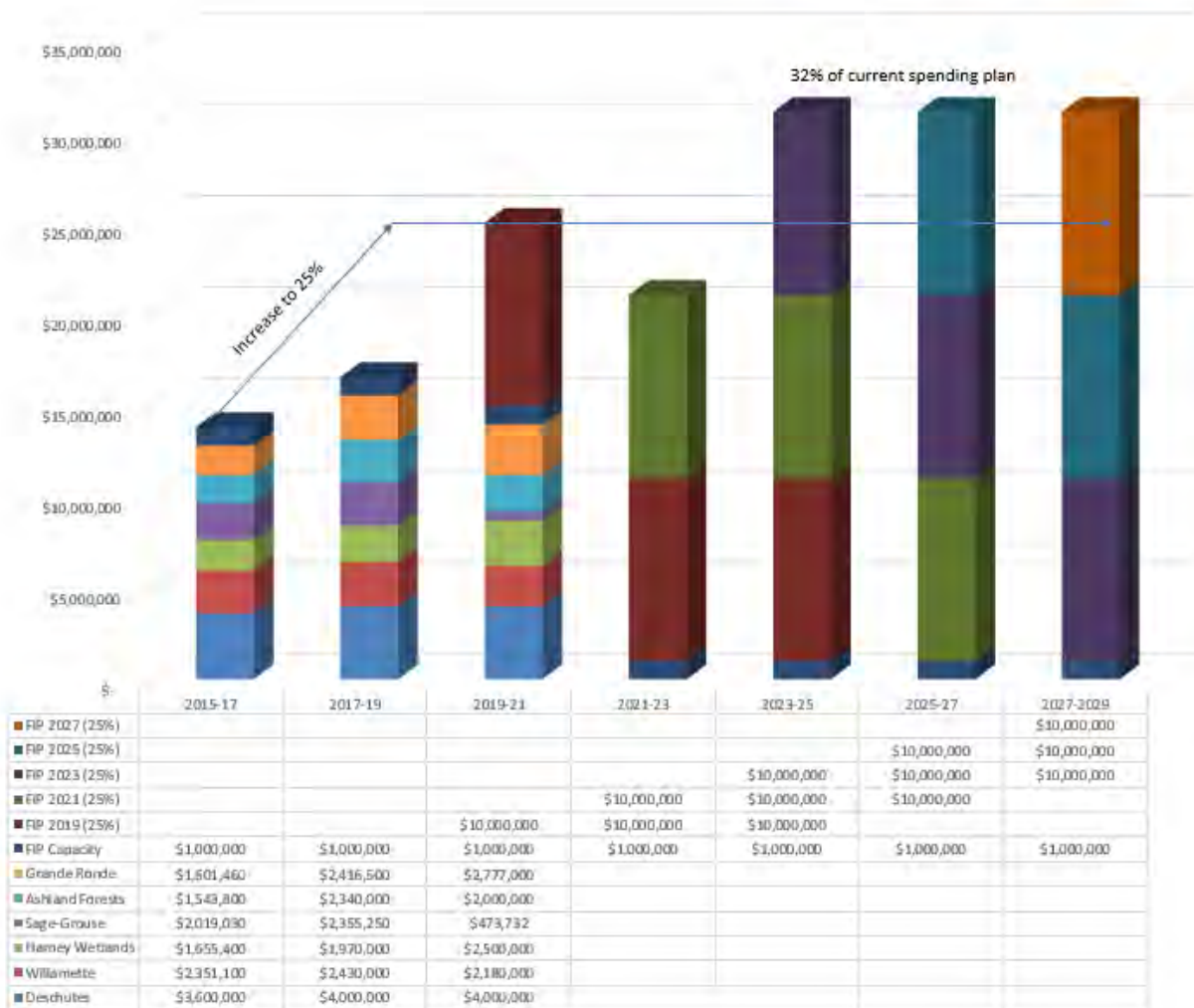
Operating Principles

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!**

Focused Investment Projections at 25% of Spending Plan





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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item L – Land Acquisitions
October 16 - 17, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This item includes two requests: A) to extend the closing date for the Botts Marsh acquisition; and B) to approve the conveyance of the Yamhill Oaks Preserve from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

II. Botts Marsh Extension

A. Program Requirements

All land acquisition grants awarded by the board are conditioned on general and project-specific due diligence requirements, which must be met by the grantees before funds are released for the land transactions.

In the event that a grantee does not satisfy the conditions of a board funding award, including closing the transaction within 18 months of the award, the board may authorize continued encumbrance of all or part of the awarded funds, or rescind the award in accordance with OAR 695-045-0200.

B. Extension Request

The Botts Marsh land acquisition project (Grant No. 217-9901) was funded by the board at its April 2017 meeting. In accordance with the 18-month rule for closing, the Botts Marsh transaction must close by October 26, 2018. The grantee, Lower Nehalem Community Trust (LNCT), has completed some of the due diligence required by OWEB's funding conditions, but as a result of project delays, will be unable to meet all of the funding conditions by the closing deadline.

The Botts Marsh transaction has been delayed by a variety of factors, including receipt of land use approvals required for the transaction and appraisal issues.

LNCT has indicated that it will complete all due diligence and submit it to OWEB for review by October. Additional time will be needed before closing the transaction, to allow for DOJ review, revisions to documents if required, and final administrative steps.

III. Yamhill Oaks Preserve Conveyance

A. Program Requirements

Conveyances of property previously purchased with OWEB funds must comply with ORS 541.960 and OAR 695-045-0210, which include but are not limited to the requirements that conveyances be made subject to board approval and shall not result in profit. The board may require conditions on a conveyance to ensure consistency with the intent of the grant, ensure the ability of the party receiving the land to carry out obligations under the grant, and address conveyance proceeds.

B. Conveyance Request

The board awarded land acquisition grant funds to TNC for the purchase of two parcels in Yamhill County, referred to as the Nielsen and Pugh parcels. TNC purchased the Nielsen parcel in 2008 and the Pugh parcel in 2013. The parcels are part of TNC's Yamhill Oaks Preserve. TNC and Yamhill SWCD have proposed the transfer of the Yamhill Oaks Preserve, including the OWEB-funded parcels, to Yamhill SWCD. TNC has indicated that the other funders involved in the initial purchases are preparing to approve the conveyance.

TNC's request for approval to convey the parcels states that TNC regularly assesses its land ownership to determine how it can best advance its broader conservation strategies and larger scale outcomes. The request states that TNC explores opportunities to partner with strong local conservation organizations to effectively own and manage protected land to maximize conservation results. TNC identified Yamhill SWCD as a strong local conservation partner to assume ownership of the Yamhill Oaks Preserve. Yamhill SWCD has indicated it is willing to own and manage the preserve.

C. Staff Review

At staff request, Yamhill SWCD submitted an acquisition application with the organizational capacity sections completed so staff could evaluate the capacity of the SWCD to manage the property to ensure the conservation values of the property are protected.

Yamhill SWCD has been providing long-term land protection services to landowners within Yamhill County since 2002. While Yamhill SWCD has not acquired any properties through OWEB's acquisition program, it does have experience acquiring property through other programs including the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Fund. The proposed conveyance aligns well with the mission of the organization. Yamhill SWCD staff have sufficient expertise and processes in place to ensure the conservation values of the property are protected.

Staff have prepared a draft conveyance agreement, to be signed by OWEB, TNC, and Yamhill SWCD. The purpose of the agreement is to ensure compliance with applicable statutes and rules, establish the circumstances of the transaction, document Yamhill SWCD's assumption of responsibilities under the grant agreements and conservation easements, and establish other understandings including but not limited to approvals that must be obtained from the other funders.

IV. Staff Recommendation

A. Botts Marsh Extension

Staff recommend the board extend the closing deadline to October 31, 2019 for Botts Marsh (OWEB Grant No. 217-9901), with all other conditions of the project to remain unchanged.

B. Yamhill Oaks Preserve Conveyance

Staff recommend the board approve the conveyance of the Yamhill Oaks Preserve (OWEB Grant Nos. 208-108 and 212-108) from The Nature Conservancy to the Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District conditioned on staff and Department of Justice approval of the final form of all conveyance-related documents.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item M-1 – Tide Gate Partnership
October 16-17, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides a summary and update of the Tide Gate Partnership. The Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) has developed and is managing a website for the partnership - www.oregontidegates.org

II. Background

The Tide Gate Partnership formed in September 2016 to address the growing challenge of aging tide gates and associated infrastructure in coastal Oregon. The partnership includes conservation and agriculture organizations, state, federal, and local agencies, counties, and landowners who are focused on supporting resilient coastal communities, protecting landscapes that support local economies, and enhancing the ecological function of estuarine resources for fish and wildlife.

As tide gates age, the roads, businesses, homes, agricultural lands, and other areas that the tide gates were built to protect become more vulnerable to flooding and intense winter storms. In order to understand the extent of the issue and consider strategies that address the aging infrastructure, the partnership developed the elements outlined below and described in detail in Attachment A.

III. Progress Update

Partnership Structure: The Tide Gate Discussion Map (Attachment B) depicts the structure of the partnership and identifies the communication pathways among groups and with other audiences. With a grant from OWEB, the AOC assists partnership facilitation and outreach.

Local Outreach: In December 2017, AOC facilitated four tide gate listening sessions in Coos Bay, Newport, Tillamook, and Clatskanie. These meetings were sponsored by the local conservation organization, the Oregon Farm Bureau and the Oregon Cattlemen's Association and were hosted by county commissioners. State and federal agency staff observed the discussion. A summary report of the sessions is provided as Attachment C.

Tide Gate Inventory: In May 2018, OWEB entered into an agreement with the Institute of Natural Resources (INR) to develop a statewide inventory. INR will 1) compile and reconcile existing tide gate inventories; 2) identify geographies where no inventory

exists and develop/implement a process to complete inventories in those areas using publicly available information; and 3) develop a database framework of partnership-directed parameters. The framework has been developed. INR is currently reconciling existing local inventories. The inventory should be complete by December 31, 2018.

Decision Support Tool: The purpose of this tool has been discussed by the partnership, but work will not begin until the inventory is finished and an analysis of the desired tool functionality is complete.

Regulatory Toolbox: OWEB has facilitated three full-day workshops with ODFW and NOAA staff to clearly identify agency authorities and roles associated with tide gate regulatory requirements and permitting. The two agencies have made significant progress in both communication and regulatory streamlining. A fourth meeting in October will include the Department of State Lands and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Engineering Toolbox: The partnership has discussed the need for additional design options. AOC conducted interviews with agency engineers and private contractors doing tide gate repair and replacement work along the west coast to better understand potential barriers, challenges, and strategies for tide gate projects in Oregon. The engineering conversation will be informed by the completed inventory and the work of the regulatory work group.

On-the-Ground Projects: The steering committee has discussed the potential to pilot work products as they are developed. Of particular interest is piloting a streamlined regulatory approach, once developed.

IV. Next Steps

- ✓ AOC will facilitate follow-up outreach meetings over the winter of 2018/2019 to show progress and give landowners an opportunity to provide additional input.
- ✓ INR will complete the tide gate inventory by the end of calendar year 2018.
- ✓ After completion of the inventory, the partners will discuss desired functionality, and research existing frameworks that could be used or modified.
- ✓ The regulatory work group will continue the regulatory streamlining conversation and explore how a team approach to coordinated review would be structured. The work group will expand to other permitting bodies as well.
- ✓ After completion of the inventory and regulatory work, the engineering work group will convene to discuss options for pursuing alternative engineering options.

Attachments

- A. Oregon Tide Gate and Infrastructure Discussion Summary
- B. Tide Gate Discussion Map
- C. Outreach Meetings Summary Report

OREGON TIDE GATE AND INFRASTRUCTURE DISCUSSION SUMMARY

The Oregon Tide Gate and Infrastructure Discussion supports resilient coastal communities by reducing risks from coastal hazards, protecting landscapes that support local economies, and enhancing ecological function of estuarine resources for fish and wildlife.

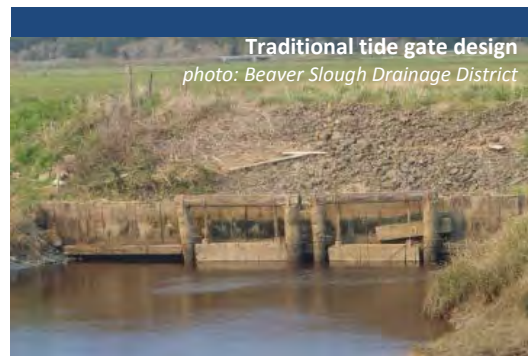
This Discussion addresses the growing challenge of aging tide gates and associated infrastructure in coastal Oregon. If tide gates fail, roads, businesses, homes, and agricultural lands become more vulnerable to flooding and intense winter storms. Areas once managed by tide gates are at risk of becoming unmanaged wetlands. Currently, no statewide inventory of tide gates exists, nor is there a data-driven tool to help communities prioritize where tide gate repair or replacement would be most beneficial. In addition, engineering solutions are limited, and landowners are often hesitant to work with government agencies for fear of scrutiny and regulatory repercussions.

A well-designed and managed tide gate strikes the delicate balance of protecting developed land from tidal inundation while managing tidal flows to allow migration of native fish, and maintain water quality and ecological function in the estuary. The elements outlined below work to support this balance by developing a suite of tools to assist landowners, communities, and others to improve and replace tide gates where necessary.

Currently, discussion participants include landowners, state and federal agencies (ODFW, OWEB, ODA, DSL, ODOT, Regional Solutions, NOAA-Fisheries, NRCS), agricultural organizations (Cattlemen, Farm Bureau, Dairy Farmers, Water Resources Congress), counties, and conservation organizations (watershed councils, conservation districts, The Nature Conservancy, land trusts, Wild Salmon Center, Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, and The Freshwater Trust). Participants plan to reach out to tribes and other interested groups as the project moves forward.

DISCUSSION ELEMENTS

- 1. LOCAL OUTREACH** - Engaging local landowners, tribes, communities and others is critical, as their voluntary participation is essential to achieving long term ecological, economic, and community resilience goals. To learn directly from landowners and local communities, partners will convene meetings beginning in September 2017 along the coast and Lower Columbia River to receive feedback on the ideas contained in this document. Stakeholder representatives will use this information to develop, promote, and begin to implement solutions.
- 2. TIDE GATE INVENTORY** - While some communities have completed tide gate inventories, a state-wide inventory does not exist. An inventory will better identify the number, location, upstream resources, and condition of existing tide gates, providing a framework to consider risks, benefits, costs, and



Traditional tide gate design
photo: Beaver Slough Drainage District

What is a Tide Gate?

In Oregon, tide gates are commonly used to control water in tidally influenced areas along the coast and lower portions of the Columbia River Basin. Traditionally, tide gates are constructed by integrating one-way doors (i.e. the tide gate) into a dike. Freshwater drains from streams above the tide gate during outgoing tides. Water pressure from incoming tides close the gate, protecting agriculture, infrastructure, and other developed landscapes from tidal inundations. Unfortunately, preventing inundation can also slow or prevent tidal flows into the estuaries, which can impede the migration of native fish, diminish water quality, and reduce estuarine ecological functions.

appropriate solutions. The inventory will utilize publicly available information, including existing inventories, Google Earth imagery, and the knowledge of interested local landowners and partners. Once a baseline inventory is complete, landowners will be offered an opportunity to voluntarily request a tide gate survey to learn more about the type, size, condition, and estimates for repair or replacement. Sites will be surveyed only with landowner permission.

3. INTERACTIVE DECISION SUPPORT TOOL - The decision support tool will be an interactive, online tool that provides a flexible and systematic approach for identifying priority project sites from a multitude of perspectives. The tool may be used by funders, local governments, restoration partners, and others to prioritize project sites at a local, regional, or coast-wide scale based on a variety of user-defined ecological, economic, and community desired outcomes. For the tool to identify priorities around agriculture, economic development benefits, community benefits, flood reduction, community resiliency, infrastructure, water quality, ecosystem function, fish habitat, and other factors, data for those indicators must be available and incorporated into the tool. It is expected that the tool will have the ability to expand as additional data sets become available. Privacy concerns will be addressed as a part of the tool's design.

4. ENGINEERING TOOLBOX - The Engineering Toolbox is intended to address engineering-related issues associated with tide gate repair and replacement projects. A predominant issue surrounding tide gate projects is that the patented Muted Tidal Regulator (MTR) is one of the only replacement alternatives that currently meet fish passage requirements. With limited manufacturing and costs that are out of reach for many drainage districts and landowners, new engineering designs are needed that meet fish passage requirements. The process will explore opportunities to encourage engineering entrepreneurship to bring additional, owner-friendly technologies to the market. It also proposes to explore opportunities to expand implementation of the existing MTR technology.

Tide gate improvement or replacement projects can take time to implement. Presently, project demand and lack of funding exceed the ability to complete projects before existing infrastructure fails. The discussion will also explore interim measures that could be approved and implemented to avoid catastrophic failure of existing tide gate infrastructure. Similarly, methods to keep landowners engaged and interested in pursuing projects on their properties will be investigated.

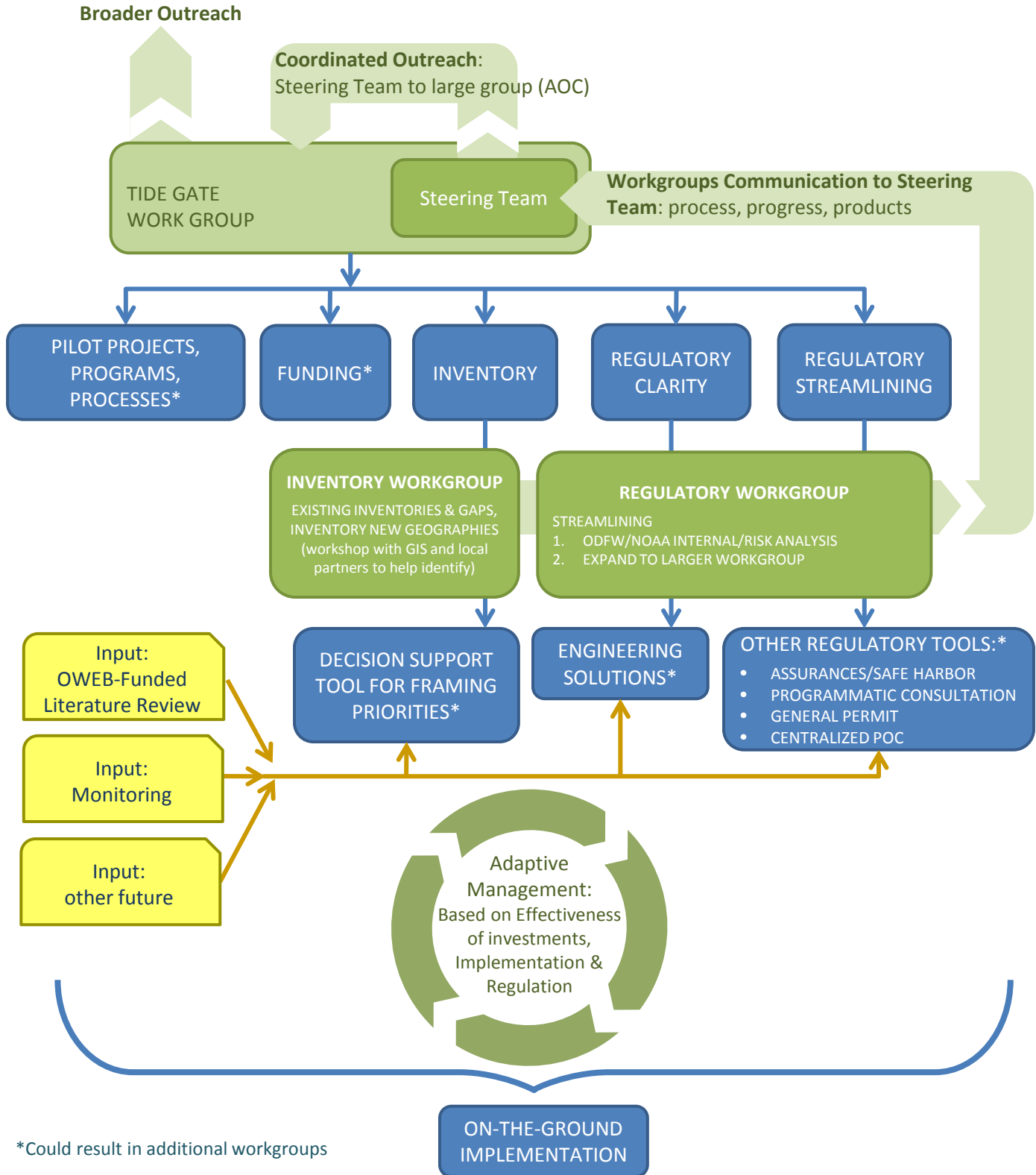
5. REGULATORY TOOLBOX - Discussions with local, state, and federal agencies will explore regulatory assurances for landowners who volunteer for tide gate improvement projects. Assurances may include recognition for associated habitat improvements and compliance with applicable environmental regulations. Assurances can provide landowners who implement habitat improvements or other conservation work on their land with protections under the Endangered Species Act or other regulations. As part of the Regulatory Toolbox, discussions will be initiated with landowners during local outreach meetings to obtain valuable input on desired regulatory assurances for consideration by state and federal partners to ensure consistency among and within agencies to streamline and bring predictability to regulatory permitting and associated costs.

6. ON-THE-GROUND PROJECTS - On-the-ground demonstration projects will help explore, demonstrate, and document the partnerships and new approaches for tide gate projects. Projects will also help identify lessons learned and considerations for planning and implementing future tide gate repair and replacement.

To begin implementing the Discussion Elements, partners seek state and federal grant funding and are initiating conversations with not-for-profit foundations and other interested organizations.

TIDE GATE DISCUSSION MAP

6/28/2018



*Could result in additional workgroups



Oregon's Failing Tide Gates

Report to the Tide Gate Work Group from the December 2017 Listening Sessions

Hosted by



Introduction

This report was prepared by the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC). It is a compilation of what was heard at the four-listening session held in Newport on Dec. 11th, Tillamook on Dec. 12th, Coquille on Dec. 14th and Clatskanie on Dec. 15th 2017. This report also contains ideas developed by AOC staff for the OWEB Work Group's consideration derived from the advice received.

All meetings were well attended. Participants included landowners, agriculture and conservation organizations, watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, tribes and elected representatives at the local and state level.

Engaging local landowners, tide gate owners, communities and others was critical, as voluntary participation is essential to achieving long-term economic, ecological and community resilience goals regarding failing tide gates.

Extensive notes from the input received were taken by AOC staff at each meeting. Themes were developed and categorized from the Worst Fears, Best

Outcomes and Specific Advice received. Advice/themes that came forward in multiple meetings were also identified. There is no priority order to the Themes. The six themes led to developing Ideas for Consideration by the OWEB Work Group that are contained in this document.

AOC wishes to specifically thank Lincoln, Tillamook, Coos and Columbia counties for convening these listening sessions. Thanks also to those that participated for your passion and particularly your advice on what actions should be taken to address failing tide gates.

Meeting Themes Heard at the Listening Sessions

Theme 1: Improving working relationships and outreach with landowners

- Recognize the importance of agriculture and water quality, not just the habitat. Landowners need a greater say on what works best for their properties. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Agencies should work more collaboratively with landowners to achieve outcomes for the landowner and fish habitat values. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Include landowners early in the process of repairing and replacing failing tide gates.
- When property is sold, tide gates should be identified in the property description so there are no potential hidden pitfalls for the new owner.
- Provide more information and education for landowners with tide gates on options for them to repair or replace tide gates. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Agencies need to have more empathy for landowners needs and goals for their property. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Landowners need technical support from a group or individual that can help write grants to secure additional funding for tide gate replacements.
- Tide gate owners include cities, counties and other entities as well as agricultural producers.

Ideas for consideration by the Work Group

1. **Recognize the importance of agriculture** in the repair and replacement of tide gates. Develop approaches that ensure **landowners have a greater say** in what happens on their property and this can be done if the agencies take a more empathetic and collaborative approach. This includes effects not only on the existing

property but adjacent landowners who may be impacted or benefited from repairing or replacing a tide gate.

2. Agencies should **develop information and education materials and training** for landowners with tide gates that outline options for them to repair or replace tide gates. All information should be developed in a manner that is easy to follow and understand. Some examples include:
 - Clearly outline what can be done under maintenance and repair and what is required to replace a tide gate.
 - Clarify what landowners can do to clean ditches behind tide gates to insure properly functioning systems.
 - Clarify where mitigation is required and not required during maintenance activities.
3. **Develop a local list of groups, individuals and contractors** that can help a landowner through the process of securing permits, deciding which design options to use and secure needed funding.

Theme 2: Tide Gate Inventory

- Complete an inventory of tide gates and in particular who owns the tide gate and is responsible for maintenance, repair and replacement of the tide gate. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- There are jurisdictional/ownership issues around tide gates that need to be resolved/addressed. For some tide gates, it is unclear who owns and who is responsible for maintenance. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Inventory will help decision-makers/legislators understand scale/scope of issue.
- Recognize that tide gate owners include cities, counties and other entities as well as agricultural producers – needs to be reflected in inventory.

Ideas for consideration by the Work Group

1. **Conduct a comprehensive inventory of all tide gates** using publicly available information. Following the inventory, work with landowners who are willing to voluntarily participate to better understand the current condition of their tide gates. This will help to **develop a list of tide gates needed to be repaired or replaced.**
2. **Clarify tide gate ownership** for those tide gates where there is confusion about who owns and is responsible for tide gate maintenance.

Theme 3: Funding

- Funding should be flexible to adapt to new science as it comes along and recognize a landowner's needs.
- Strong need to develop a collaborative funding process between agencies to spread limited dollars farther. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Prioritization approach needs to take into account differing agency missions and requirements in order to be effective.
- Clarify what constitutes maintenance vs repair/replacement. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Funding options should take into account different sizes of tide gates, public benefits funding and dollars available for removal of tide gates where landowners wish to remove them.
- Develop a funding system to help landowners who need cost share assistance to replace expensive tide gates. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- If public benefits are required for tide gate repair or replacement, then public dollars should help pay for those public benefits. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Secure funding for landowners to replace or remove a tide gate that have no fish benefits.
- NRCS should develop a funding system for Oregon tide gates similar to what is occurring in Washington and California.

Ideas for consideration by the Work Group

1. **Review what other states are doing** to fund the repair or replacement of failing tide gates to determine what might work in Oregon that we are not currently doing.
2. **Develop funding opportunities** for tide gates that need to be replaced that are not a high priority for fish passage, but have other strong public benefits like protection of transportation or community infrastructure, water quality or flood reduction.
3. Since it is clear that there is now and will be a growing need to repair or replace tide gates now and into the future, there needs to be a **task force convened to develop funding strategies** to assist landowners with public benefits derived from them participating in this effort for both the legislature and congressional funding opportunities.

Theme 4: Engineering Options

- Agencies should certify/approve more contractors or designs to repair and replace tide gates.
- Need more engineering options to fix/repair tide gates vs essentially one option that is very expensive. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Recognize sea level rise in engineering solutions so we don't have to come back and replace tide gates because sea level rise wasn't considered
- Regulatory agencies should help with alternate solutions vs one size fits all approach. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- There needs to be cheaper solutions made available that can pass agency muster. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Fish-friendly tide gates may not be needed in all cases.
- Need clear definition of the difference between an 'irrigation control structure' and a tide gate.

Ideas for consideration by the Work Group

1. **Review what other states are doing** to develop new engineering solutions to repair or replace failing tide gates to determine what might work in Oregon that we are not currently doing.
2. **Develop an agency (federal and state) approved list of various tide gate options** that can be used under different circumstances from small replacements to large replacements. Consider a variety of options that include **low-cost engineering options** that expand designs available to landowners and options available to contractors.

Theme 5: Regulations, permitting, and streamlining

- Agencies should not set the regulatory bar so high that it can't be achieved with a landowner's consent.
- Develop a General Type Permit for tide gate replacements. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Work with landowners to approve permits in advance (pre-approval process) so landowners don't have to wait so long to secure the necessary permits when a tide gate needs replacement. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Establish a lead agency or single point of contact at state and federal level to help be an advocate or an ombudsman to help landowners through regulatory maze. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Increase agency alignment for requirements to repair or replace tide gates; improves consistency and makes process more streamlined for applicants **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Develop a simplified permit for emergency repairs. Some agencies already have system in place so use their model. **(multiple meeting responses)**

- Provide opportunities for landowners to have regulatory certainty when they replace a tide gate that they have met regulatory requirements. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Identify permitting approach that minimizes risk to landowners so a landowner is willing to participate.
- Evaluate need for fines. Work with landowners to achieve objectives of both parties.
- Fish passage regulations can be onerous and costly to a landowner and it is recommended the legislature review the impacts and costs of ODFW's OAR's and the ORS concerning this issue. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Maintenance and repair practices of a drainage system that is not converting the land use but maintaining the existing land use is historic and should not require mitigation. **(multiple meeting responses)**

Ideas for consideration by the Work Group

1. **Establish an 'ombudsmans' office** to assist tide gate owners in navigating the relevant permitting and other requirements for tide gate repair and replacement, as well as permits required to address associated infrastructure (levies, interior gates, ditches, etc.)
2. Research ways to provide **'permitting in advance'** of the need to replace a tide gate so tide gate owners can quickly replace gates when the need arises.
3. **Review what other states are doing** to streamline regulatory approaches to repair or replace failing tide gates to determine what might work in Oregon that we are not currently doing.
4. **Analyze state agency statutes and rules** affecting tide gates to look for efficiencies and ways to reduce costs of compliance with repair or replacement of tide gates. With federal agencies support, task force could also review federal requirements for streamlining options. Ensure **regulations are applied consistently** up and down the coast and lower Columbia River.
5. Assess the feasibility of a **one-stop General Permit** that streamlines the permitting processes for repairing or replacing tide gates.
6. Develop a streamlined **simplified permit for an emergency repair**. Need to define an emergency repair so it is clear when an emergency repair can take place.

7. **Develop a Safe Harbor certificate or Habitat Conservation Plan** so that once a project is completed to agency satisfaction, the landowner is protected for a certain period of time from further requirements. Look for pilot locations to test this model.
8. **Review rules and regulations** affecting a landowner's ability to clean and maintain ditches behind tide gates to ensure proper flow of water in the system.
9. Identify and agree to have one state agency and one federal agency as the **primary point of contact** for a landowner wishing to repair or replace a tide gate. They would be responsible for shepherding the landowner through the permitting process.

Theme 6: On-the-Ground Projects

- Once projects are implemented, need a safe harbor provision or regulatory assurances to protect against having to replace tide gates prior to failure. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Need to be able to clean out ditches behind tide gates because if you don't tide gates don't function properly. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Clarify manmade ditches vs natural ditches (former streams) and what is allowed for cleaning/maintaining these ditches.
- Landowners need clear expectations and desired outcomes in order to participate. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Develop a set of guidelines and information sheets that are clear and can help landowners weave their way through the process to repair or replace a tide gate **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Tide gate replacements, failures and removals can have effects on surrounding landowners that need to be considered.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item M-2 – Follow-Up from Tide Gate Literature Review
October 16-17, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides a summary and update of OWEB's next steps resulting from the findings and recommendations from the Tide Gate Literature Review Report.

II. Background

The board's Monitoring Subcommittee and staff have identified tide gate restoration investments as a priority area to investigate via programmatic effectiveness monitoring. Tide gate restoration encompasses projects that remove tide gates, and also projects that replace tide gates with fish-friendly designs. Tide gate restoration projects can be costly and complex to design and implement. In addition, natural resource experts have raised concerns about the aging tide gate infrastructure in the state (see Agenda Item M-1). Oregon has seen an increasing number of failing tide gates and a growing need for tide gate restoration projects.

Due to these emerging issues, OWEB identified the need to compile existing knowledge and information about the effects of tide gate restoration projects, including findings from existing monitoring of these projects. In January 2018, staff and partners from Oregon State University (OSU) presented to the board the results of a literature review of existing materials from the Pacific Northwest that describes the effects of tide gate restoration projects. This presentation summarized the key findings and lessons learned from this review and proposed recommendations based on findings of the literature review. The Tide Gate Literature Review Report is available on OWEB's website at: <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/data-reporting/EM/Pages/Tide-Gates.aspx>.

III. Progress Update

In the context of this work, OWEB's role is twofold:

- 1) As a funder of on-the-ground tide gate restoration, technical assistance, and monitoring, the agency is interested in ensuring we help share learnings from past investments to inform the quality and success of future projects; and

- 2) As one of multiple agency and local partners in the Tide Gate Partnership, the agency can assist with the convening of discussions around priority topics.

With these roles in mind, staff reviewed the range of recommendations from the OSU report, compiling these into a detailed table organized by several themes: planning, implementation of restoration actions, monitoring, and communications/other. The recommendations then were 1) categorized by appropriate lead and 2) phased by logical timing, considering dependencies such as coordination with partners, necessary outreach/communication, etc. Likely audiences for follow-up regarding technical findings and recommendations include restoration practitioners and review team members. In addition, staff have internally discussed which of these findings and recommendations are most applicable to the efforts of the Tide Gate Partnership.

In September 2018, staff met with the board's Monitoring Subcommittee to review the high-level findings and recommendations from the OSU report, and outline proposed next steps that staff tentatively identified as priorities for near-term implementation. Subcommittee members provided feedback about areas of focus during the next year, as outlined in Section IV below.

IV. Next Steps

Priority next steps identified by staff and affirmed by the Monitoring Subcommittee focus on communicating key findings and considerations when planning, designing and monitoring tide gate restoration projects on the Oregon Coast. Specifically, staff will undertake the following work in the coming year:

- 1) Developing a lessons learned/considerations document(s), based on findings from past investments and informed by the OSU literature review, for restoration practitioners and review teams;
- 2) In coordination with the Tide Gate Partnership, gathering information about other tide gate programs (e.g., State of Washington's Farm, Fish, Flood initiative, hydrodynamic modeling work); and
- 3) In coordination with agency and local partners, continue to explore opportunities to invest in the monitoring of tide gate projects and scope additional monitoring needs.

In addition to these next steps that will be pursued by staff, the Tide Gate Partnership is planning for a presentation to that group by Dr. Jon Souder about the tide gate literature review findings in Fall 2018.

V. Recommendation

This is an information item only.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item N – Conservation Partnership Request
October 16-17, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report describes the Oregon's Conservation Partnership's (Partnership) accomplishments to date for the biennium and provides a funding recommendation for the remainder of the Partnership's biennial grant.

II. Background

The Partnership includes The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (NOWC), Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD), Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), and Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network (OCEAN). These separate organizations collaborate to deliver technical support, member services, program development, training, and outreach to their stakeholders.

For the 2017-2019 biennium, OWEB staff proposed increased funding for the Partnership to increase its delivery of services to its stakeholders. The total recommended award by staff was \$500,000. At the July 2017 meeting, the board awarded \$450,000, with the requirement that the staff provide an update to the board prior to awarding the Partnership the remaining \$50,000 of funding.

III. Accomplishments

The Partnership has been working to increase communication and coordination among the organizations with meetings of the executive directors and the boards. The Partnership has also been working to increase the delivery of services to stakeholders and staff will provide an overview of accomplishments at the board meeting. Highlights include:

- Delivery of three-day CONNECT conference in Seaside with 332 individuals and 69 sessions involving Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), watershed councils, and land trusts from across the state.
- Distribution of the annual State of the Lands report.
- Worked collaboratively with stakeholders to execute an earned media strategy featuring April OWEB grant awards and highlighting the importance of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund.

- Held monthly ‘Third Thursday’ training webinars for watershed councils, SWCDs, and land trust staff. Topics included:
 - How to think like an OWEB reviewer
 - Developing your core message
 - Using media
 - Lessons in collaboration
 - AmeriCorps program
 - Cultural resource protection
 - Databases for river and watershed groups.

The Partnership has many additional activities planned for the biennium, including the CONNECT 2019 conference, monthly webinars, regional meetings with stakeholders, continued media efforts, and engaging with OWEB and local partners to celebrate 20 years of conservation in Oregon.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board award an additional \$50,000 to the Partnership in grant #218-8006-15907 for a total award of \$500,000 for the biennium.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360

Salem, OR 97301-1290

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item O – Governor’s Priorities, Post-Fire Response
October 16-17, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff request the board support immediate technical assistance needs required for a local response to catastrophic wildfire impacts to watershed health on private lands as a result of wildfires in north-central Oregon. Normal project delivery mechanisms through OWEB’s Open Solicitation Technical Assistance (TA) offering are not suited to the rapid response the situation requires. Based on conversations with Governor Brown’s office, funds would be drawn from the Governor’s Priorities line item in the spending plan.

The north-central Oregon fires require a quick and proactive response to prevent further impacts to the watersheds, including impacts to ESA-listed salmon and steelhead.

II. Background

North-central Oregon experienced an extreme fire season in 2018. Fires in Wasco, Sherman, and Gilliam counties burned over 307,000 acres. Attachment A provides a description of the larger fires that occurred the across the counties. Soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) are working closely with local, state, and federal partners to coordinate resources to address the damage caused by these fires. Primary concerns are soil erosion on crop and rangeland, loss of riparian and upland vegetation, damaged fences that protect sensitive areas from livestock damage, potential for invasive species colonization of disturbed sites, and damaged forestland that will impact watershed functions.

The fires impacted both public and private lands. On the federal lands impacted by the fire, Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) teams move swiftly to assess and implement immediate actions to protect and minimize detrimental impacts from fires and wet season runoff. While BAER coordinates with other federal agencies and private landowners, there is not a similar rapid response designed to assess impacts and verify the burn severity and intensity in order to prioritize and develop actions to meet the restoration needs on private lands.

Although OWEB does not currently have a program designed to quickly respond to natural disasters, it does have a rich history of such responsiveness, including assistance with drought and salmon fishery closures.

III. Proposal

The SWCDs will work with private landowners affected in the fires to inventory damage to natural resources and develop conservation plans. This will include landowner engagement through events and media, coordination with partner agencies, site visits to conduct inventory, GIS mapping and analysis, and project prioritization. The SWCDs will assist landowners in weighing alternatives and choosing the best restoration plans to address critical post-fire recovery needs and direct them to appropriate funding opportunities.

IV. Recommendation

Staff requests that the board delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into a grant agreement to implement technical assistance activities to identify and develop responses to immediate watershed health needs caused by the north-central Oregon fires on private lands in an amount not to exceed \$60,000, to be taken from the Governor's Priorities line item in the spending plan.

Attachments

- A. Description of 2018 wildfires in north-central Oregon.

Description of Wildfires in North-Central Oregon

The **Boxcar Fire** was a wildfire that started near the town of Maupin, in Wasco County. The fire started on June 21, 2018 due to a lightning strike and burned 100,207 acres due to dry, windy conditions.

The **Substation Fire** started near The Dalles in the late afternoon on July 17, 2018. Strong winds caused the fire to grow rapidly, with the fire moving over 18 miles in days. Agricultural and recreational areas suffered heavy damage and by July 18 Oregon Governor Kate Brown had declared a state of emergency, which included calling the Oregon National Guard to assist with fighting the fire. As of July 23, the fire had destroyed 78,425 acres across Wasco and Sherman Counties.

The **Long Hollow Fire** was first reported on July 26, 2018, at 4:45 pm in a field southeast of Dufur, in Wasco County. The fire was started by farm equipment. Dry temperatures and strong winds led to the fire's rapid growth into the evening into the canyon of the Deschutes River. A portion of the river and Highway 216 were closed as a result. The Long Hollow Fire burned 34,097 acres in both Wasco and Sherman Counties.

The **South Valley Fire** was a wildfire that started west of the town of Dufur in Wasco County. The fire grew fast, burning almost 3,500 acres by the first evening. Level three evacuations were put in place and Governor Kate Brown call into action the emergency conflagration act as a result of the fire, sending resources. The South Valley Fire burned 20,043 acres and caused the evacuation of 400 people and threatened 100 homes.

The **Stubblefield Fire** was a wildfire that started six miles west of Condon in Gilliam County. The fire was started on August 17th due to a lightning strike and burned 54,221 acres due to dry, windy conditions. The rugged John Day Canyons in the Ferry Canyon and Thirtymile watersheds limited the ability of fire crews to efficiently contain the fire. This led to ~10% of the Thirtymile watershed and ~25% of the Ferry Canyon watershed being burned. Both of these watersheds contain Endangered Species Act (ESA) critical habitat for steelhead. Without fire restoration this habitat may be compromised due to winter weather and invasive species colonization.

The **Lonerock Fire** was a wildfire that started seven miles northwest of Lonerock in Gilliam County. The fire was started on August 17th due to a lightning strike and burned 5,055 acres due to dry, windy conditions. The rugged John Day Canyons in the Rock Creek watershed limited the ability of fire crews to efficiently contain the fire. This led to ~3.5 miles of Lonerock Creek being burned. Lonerock Creek is listed as ESA critical habitat for steelhead.

The **Jackknife Fire** was a wildfire that started east of the town of Grass Valley, in Sherman County near the John Day River. The fire started on June 21, 2018 due to a lightning strike and burned 15,590 acres due to dry, windy conditions.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD January 15, 2019

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

October 16, 2018 Board Meeting

Curry Public Library
94341 3rd Street
Gold Beach, OR 97444

MINUTES: Some agenda items are discussed out of order.

(Audio time stamps reference recording at: <https://youtu.be/jLS2JsaMp3M>).

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT

Alvarado, Ron
Brandt, Stephen
Furfey, Rosemary
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Kile, Molly
Marshall, Gary
Masterson, Laura
McAlister, Liza Jane
Neuhauser, Will
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason

ABSENT

Buckmaster, Bruce
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Lee, Jan
Stangl, Kathy

VACANT

Board of Forestry

OWEB STAFF PRESENT

Appel, Lisa
Barnes, Darika
Ciannella, Greg
Davis, Renee
Fetcho, Ken
Greer, Sue
Grenbemer, Mark
Hartstein, Eric
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Redon, Liz
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

OTHERS PRESENT

Beamer, Kelley
Beeken, Max
Brooks, Perry
Colby, John
Coordes, Regan
Desmond, Jim
Dunne, Mel
Freitas, Anna
Gall, Ivan
Gilbert, Amanda
Harper, Drew
Klock, Clair
Lutz, Haley
Preeg-Riggsby, Terri
Purpura, Holly
Siebert, Paul
Timchak, Kelly
Wahl, Mary
Weber, Gregory

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Co-Chair Will Neuhauser. In the absence of Co-Chair Randy Labbe, OWEB Board Member Jason Robison accepted co-chair responsibilities for this meeting.

A. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:01:15)

Board members provided updates on issues and activities related to their respective geographic regions and/or from the state and federal natural resource agencies they represent.

B. Review and Approval of June Meeting Minutes (Audio = 0:44:40)

The minutes of the June 27, 2018 meeting in Cascade Locks were presented to the board for approval.

Co-Chair Will Neuhauser moved the board approve the minutes from the June 27, 2018 meeting in Cascade Locks. The motion was seconded by Laura Masterson. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 0:45:55)

C. Board Subcommittee Updates (Audio = 0:47:00)

Representatives from the Monitoring, Focused Investments, and Operating Capacity subcommittees provided updates to the full board on current subcommittee topics and activities.

D. Public Comment (Audio = 0:58:10)

There was no public comment.

E. Council Capacity Grants Guidance (Audio = 0:58:25)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff presented a review of the staff-proposed revisions to OWEB's Council Capacity Grants guidance document. Shaff requested board action to approve those revisions.

Co-Chair Jason Robison moved the board approve the changes to the 2019-2021 council capacity grant program and guidance document as described in Attachment B to the Council Capacity Grant Guidance Updates staff report. The motion was second by Gary Marshall. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:14:55)

F. Spring 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering (Audio = 1:15:30)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and OWEB's Regional Program Representatives presented the Spring 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering. Williams provided a summary of the project application review process and evaluation criteria, a summary of projects submitted and recommended, and other additional information on the grant offering, including projects proposed for Salmon License Plate funding. Each of the Program Representatives highlighted a project from their region that demonstrated excellence in meeting the evaluation criteria.

Due to the absence of a quorum for awarding grant funds, no motion was offered. Voting board members present indicated unanimous support to approve the staff funding recommendations as described in Attachment D to the Spring 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering. A vote will be held during a conference call scheduled for Friday, October 19 at 11:00 a.m. when a quorum of the board members can be present. (Audio = 3:00:00)

P. Director's Update (Audio = 3:02:10)

P-1: OWEB 20th Anniversary

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff briefed the board about OWEB's 20th anniversary promotions that are being coordinated with Oregon Lottery throughout 2019, including a television commercial, billboards, and a landing page on the Lottery website which highlights its beneficiaries to demonstrate the impact of Lottery revenues. Shaff presented the commercial and some project videos from the website. She also discussed some of the events being organized for the board, staff, and stakeholders to celebrate the 20th anniversary over the

next year at board meetings and around the state. Member Molly Kile suggested inviting restoration workers to come and celebrate at the Capitol.

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden asked the board members to view and share these videos and then provided a brief update on OWEB's new logo, which will be launched in 2019.

P-6: Salmon License Plates (Audio = 3:41:00)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden informed the board that OWEB and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department will be working with the Oregon Department of Transportation's Department of Motor Vehicles and the Oregon Lottery to develop and promote a new design for the 20-year-old salmon license plate. Loftsgaarden said she will keep the board informed of progress on this project at the next two board meetings, and will request an endorsement in July from the board and in September from the Parks Commission, with a public campaign to launch the plates in October and November.

P-2: OAHP Update (Audio = 3:48:55)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams updated the board on the work of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission since the June board meeting, which included rulemaking activities and a solicitation for letters of interest from eligible organizations who have viable conservation easement or covenant grant projects that could apply for funding under the draft proposed rules. Williams reviewed OWEB's budget request for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program and the next steps for the commission.

P-3: Annual Performance Progress Report (APPR) (Audio = 3:55:25)

Deputy Director Renee Davis provided an overview of OWEB's APPR to the Oregon Legislature and the 12 Key Performance Measures that indicate the agency's performance and outcomes compared with its targets.

P-4: Online Systems (Audio = 4:07:15)

Deputy Director Renee Davis updated the board about OWEB's online grant application system and described the extensive improvements that have been made to the system's functionality during the last year.

G. Board Discussion with Oregon Water Resources Department (Audio = 4:15:30)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Oregon Water Resources Department Field Services Division Administrator Ivan Gall addressed the board on legal options available for protecting water instream, including water measurement, water leasing, forbearance agreements, and permanent instream transfers.

H. Strategic Plan Update (Audio = 5:13:45)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden reported to the board on progress made on strategic plan implementation and a broad overview of how staff will communicate on this issue going forward.

H-1: Tracking and Staff Capacity (Audio = 5:14:30)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden walked the board through a template developed by staff to track quarterly progress on each of the eight strategic plan priorities and asked for board feedback on the structure and content.

H-2: Board Subcommittees (Audio = 5:36:30)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden discussed how staff and board would like to establish regular check-ins with board subcommittees at their meetings for strategic plan priorities that are within their purview, with some overlap among committees, to continue to push and monitor progress in implementing OWEB's strategic plan.

I. Secure, Safe, and Resilient Water Future (Audio = 5:46:00)

Deputy Director Renee Davis updated the board on the Governor's emerging state initiative to ensure resiliency in water systems across the state with a 100-year vision. Davis explained her involvement on the Core Team—a deputy-level roundtable previously created in the early years of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds—to further develop the water vision and continue work on the inventory of built and natural infrastructure and water assets, Director Loftsgaarden's leadership role in this initiative, and how the effort connects to OWEB's strategic plan.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

October 17, 2018 Board Meeting

Curry Public Library
94341 3rd Street
Gold Beach, OR 97444

MINUTES: Some agenda items are discussed out of order.

(Audio time stamps reference recording at: <https://youtu.be/9MwQeHxdiUs>).

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT

Alvarado, Ron
Brandt, Stephen
Furfey, Rosemary
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Kile, Molly
Marshall, Gary
Masterson, Laura
McAlister, Liza Jane
Neuhauser, Will
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason

OWEB STAFF PRESENT

Appel, Lisa
Barnes, Darika
Davis, Renee
Fetcho, Ken
Greer, Sue
Hartstein, Eric
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Redon, Liz
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

OTHERS PRESENT

Beamer, Kelley
Boyer, Barbara
Coordes, Regan
Freitas, Anna
Klock, Clair
Minster, Erin
Ojua, Larry
Schmierer, Ann
Swanson, Matt
Timchak, Kelly

ABSENT

Buckmaster, Bruce
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Lee, Jan
Stangl, Kathy

VACANT

Board of Forestry

J. 2019-2021 Spending Plan (Audio = 0:01:15)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden led the board through initial discussions around developing the 2019-2021 Spending Plan, and initiated a conversation with the board about the tie between the spending plan and OWEB's 2018 strategic plan.

K. Public Comment (Audio = 1:05:45)

The board was addressed by Clair Klock from Klock Farm and the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District to promote clean ground water and surface water in uplands area projects and to support the Governor's concept of the 100-year Water Vision.

The board was also addressed by Erin Minster from the Curry Soil and Water Conservation District and Curry Watershed Partnership, who came to thank the board for their support of the Oregon State Weed Board program.

L. Land Acquisitions (Audio = 1:13:20)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams brought before the board a request to transfer ownership of two parcels of land in Yamhill County, known as the Yamhill Oaks Preserve, which were acquired through past Land Acquisition grant awards, from ownership by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to ownership by the Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Williams also asked the board to consider an extension of the grant agreement associated with the Botts Marsh acquisition project.

Public Comment:

Jim Desmond, executive director for TNC in Oregon, came before the board to support approval for the conveyance of Yamhill Oaks Preserve from TNC to Yamhill SWCD. Desmond said TNC will also transfer funds in a stewardship endowment for the property to Yamhill SWCD.

Larry Ojua from the Yamhill SWCD also voiced approval for the conveyance of Yamhill Oaks Preserve from TNC to Yamhill SWCD and discussed the integrity of the operations, staff, board, and future of the Yamhill SWCD, which was endorsed in an organizational capacity review by OWEB staff. Barbara Boyer, chair of the SWCD board, also voiced her support for the conveyance of Yamhill Oaks Preserve from TNC to Yamhill SWCD

Co-Chair Will Neuhauser moved the board extend the closing deadline to October 31, 2019 for the Botts Marsh project (OWEB grant # 217-9901), with all other conditions of the project to remain unchanged. The motion was seconded by Meg Reeves. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:40:40)

Laura Masterson moved the board approve conveyance of the Yamhill Oaks Preserve (OWEB grant #208-108 and #212-108) from The Nature Conservancy to the Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District, conditioned on staff and Department of Justice approval of the final form of all conveyance-related documents. The motion was seconded by Co-Chair Will Neuhauser. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:53:20)

M. Tide Gates Programs (Audio = 1:54:30)

Deputy Director Renee Davis provided a framework for the agenda item.

M-1: Tide Gate Partnership (Audio = 1:57:45)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden explained the Tide Gate Partnership and updated the board on the partnership's activities. She briefly highlighted the items the partnership is working on, and how they connect directly and indirectly to the work of OWEB.

M-2: Follow up From the Tide Gate Literature Review (Audio = 2:08:10)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho reminded the board about the findings and recommendations from a recent literature review of tide gate restoration projects by Oregon State University. They then presented next steps for communicating key findings and considerations of the review to landowners, restoration practitioners, review teams, and partner organizations working on tide gates and increasing understanding about the results and outcomes of tide gate investments.

N. Conservation Partnership Funding Request (Audio = 2:40:35)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff reviewed for the board the Oregon Conservation Partnership's (Partnership) accomplishments to date for the biennium. The Partnership includes The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (NOWC), Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD), Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), and Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network (OCEAN). These separate organizations collaborate with the assistance of OWEB funding to deliver technical support, member services, program development, training, and outreach to their stakeholders who are largely OWEB grantees. Shaff recommended the board approve funding the \$50,000 remainder of the Partnership's biennial grant.

Public Comment: (Audio = 2:43:50)

Kelley Beamer from COLT, Kelly Timchak from NOWC, Terry Preeg Riggsby from OCEAN, and Anna Freitas from OACD came before the board to provide an overview of the partnership and how the organizations work together to support their request for the \$50,000 remainder of the Partnership's biennial grant.

Due to the absence of a quorum for awarding grant funds, no motion was offered. Voting board members present indicated unanimous support to award an additional \$50,000 to the Conservation Partnership in OWEB grant #218-8006-15907, for a total award of \$500,000 for the biennium. A vote will be held during a conference call scheduled for Friday, October 19 at 11:00 a.m. when a quorum of the board members can be present. (Audio = 3:01:50)

O. Governor's Priorities (Audio = 3:02:25)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein requested the board provide Governor's Priority funding for post-fire technical assistance.

O-1: Governor's Priorities – Post Fire Response (Audio = 3:02:50)

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein requested the board provide up to \$60,000 in Governor's Priority funding for post-fire technical assistance in north-central Oregon counties impacted by an extreme fire season.

O-2: Governor's Priorities – Post Fire Response in Wasco County (Audio = 3:12:08)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams requested the board provide an emergency bridge loan to the Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District, to be reimbursed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service for post-fire technical assistance

Due to the absence of a quorum for awarding grant funds, no motion was offered. Voting board members present indicated unanimous support to delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into grant agreements to implement technical assistance activities to identify and develop responses to immediate watershed health needs caused by the north-central Oregon fires on private lands in an amount not to exceed \$60,000, to be taken from the Governor's Priorities line item in the 2017-19 spending plan. A vote will be held during a conference call scheduled for Friday, October 19 at 11:00 a.m. when a quorum of the board members can be present. (Audio = 3:18:30)

Board members present also indicated unanimous support to add \$10,000 of recaptured funds to the Governor's Priority line item of the 2017-2019 spending plan, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into a grant agreement with Wasco SWCD to

cover fees, closing costs, and interest on a loan to implement post-fire restoration, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000, to be taken from the Governor's Priorities line item in the spending plan. A vote will be held during a conference call scheduled for Friday, October 19 at 11:00 a.m. when a quorum of the board members can be present. (Audio = 3:19:10)

P. Director's Update (Audio = 3:19:50)

P-5: Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring – "Telling the Restoration Story"

Deputy Director Renee Davis presented information about the current status of a new grant offering intended to help OWEB and grantees better communicate data findings and outcomes from investments in various types of restoration. Davis talked about the restoration stories in progress and expectations around the next steps for issuing grant agreements this fall and completed products in 2019.

Q. Other Business (Audio = 3:30:15)

The board co-chairs will respond to a public comment letter from Craig Patterson and invited other board members to provide feedback to the co-chairs.

Executive Director Loftsgaarden invited board members and public to attend a day at the Oregon State Capitol on February 22 to celebrate 20 years of conservation.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m. by Co-Chair Neuhauser. (Audio = 3:32:00)